



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Mubarak's Al-Asad, Al-Qadhdhafi Talks Reported

JN2703172790 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
26 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] The AL-AHRAM political editor has learned the Tubruq quadripartite summit among Presidents Husni Mubarak, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, Hafiz al-Asad, and 'Umar al-Bashir on Saturday dealt in depth with the general outlines to achieve effective and convincing Arab solidarity to face the recent international changes. The political editor learned the four leaders, who met in Tubruq on Saturday during the Libyan people's celebration of Evacuation Day at Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir base, concentrated on three basic issues in their quadripartite and bilateral talks:

1. President Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad discussed—in their first meeting since the restoration of Egyptian-Syrian relations—methods to improve and develop Syrian-Iraqi relations and remove differences between Baghdad and Damascus.

President Mubarak concentrated on this issue, despite the fact he is aware of the complications in the Syrian-Iraqi differences, because it is one of the most important obstacles to a comprehensive Arab reconciliation. Presidents Mubarak and Al-Asad agreed to complete discussion of this issue in their coming meeting, which will take place after Ramadan.

2. Presidents Mubarak and Al-Qadhdhafi discussed in detail the complications in Libyan-U.S. relations and the role Egypt is playing to alleviate the fears of the two sides. Within this framework, President Mubarak conveyed to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi the details of what took place between him and U.S. President Bush concerning the fire that broke out at the Libyan al-Rabitah plant and Washington's denial of its involvement in it.

3. The efforts to achieve comprehensive Arab solidarity topped the talks of the four leaders, particularly regarding the work and activities of the three cooperation councils: The Arab Cooperation Council, the Gulf Cooperation Council, and the Arab Maghreb Union. The aim was to prevent launching new blocs at the expense of existing blocs and organizations.

MENA Reports Egyptian-Yemeni Statement

NC2703171090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2200 GMT
26 Mar 90

[Text] Sanaa, 26 Mar (MENA)—The Arab Republic of Egypt and the Yemen Arab Republic have expressed their absolute support for the Palestinian people's valiant intifadah in the occupied Arab territories.

In a joint press statement issued this evening upon conclusion of the Joint Higher Egyptian-Yemeni Committee's second session, chaired by the two countries' prime ministers in Sanaa, the two countries emphasized

the need to extend material and moral support of every kind to the Palestinian people in their historic struggle, under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, to regain all their legitimate rights and establish an independent state of their own on their national soil according to the resolutions issued by the Arab summits and the United Nations.

The joint Egyptian-Yemeni statement emphasized the seriousness of the negative repercussions of Jewish immigration to the occupied Arab territories.

The two countries agreed Jewish settlement in the occupied territories as a consequence of this immigration represents an infringement on the Palestinian people's legitimate political rights to their land, homeland, and identity. It also constitutes a threat to pan-Arab security, a violation of human rights and the principles of international law, and a complete contradiction of the UN resolutions on the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The statement noted Jewish settlement in the occupied territories represents a major impediment to the peace efforts.

The joint Egyptian-Yemeni statement pointed out the Egyptian delegation reviewed the peace efforts that are being made, in constant coordination and consultation with the PLO leadership, to activate the peace process to achieve a comprehensive, just settlement in the Middle East.

The Egyptian delegation underlined the need to generate and maintain momentum in the Middle East despite all the obstacles and hurdles, so the fait accompli in the occupied Arab territories may not be maintained.

The two countries praised the Palestinian peace initiative and expressed their support for the energetic and effective Palestinian efforts for the establishment of a lasting peace based on justice in the Middle East.

The Egyptian and Yemeni delegations closely reviewed the development of bilateral relations in all fields between Egypt and the Yemen Arab Republic. They noted with satisfaction the executive measures that have been taken to give momentum to the process of bilateral cooperation between them.

The Yemeni delegation reviewed the steps and measures the two sectors of Yemen have taken to reunite the two sectors in one state.

The Egyptian delegation expressed Egypt's welcome and support for these steps, emphasizing its conviction that a united Yemeni state will be a strong asset for the Arab nation and a factor for stability in the region.

The two countries also reviewed all the Arab, regional, Islamic, and international issues of mutual concern.

The joint Egyptian-Yemeni statement said the two countries discussed the current situation in the Gulf area and expressed their concern the peace negotiations within the

framework of the United Nations to achieve a peaceful settlement to the Iraqi-Iranian conflict have stumbled.

The two countries underscored their support for Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's initiative of 5 January. They expressed the hope Iran will respond to this initiative and to the UN secretary general's efforts to implement UN Security Council Resolution No. 598 of 1987.

The two countries also reviewed developments in the Lebanese crisis and the Arab efforts that have been exerted within the framework of the tripartite committee, which is an offshoot of the Arab summit, to resolve the Lebanese crisis.

They emphasized the importance of implementing the al-Ta'if document for national accord that has been approved by the Lebanese deputies.

The two countries urged all the Lebanese people to continue to exert efforts for the sake of Lebanon's unity and independence, so they can continue their effective Arab role.

Within the context of emphasizing the importance of joint Arab action, the Egyptian and Yemeni delegations in their joint statement lauded the experiment of the Arab Cooperation Council, and stated the Arab regional groups are considered an effective instrument for maintaining and boosting Arab solidarity. They noted with satisfaction the increasing tendency to establish cooperation and coordination among these groups within the framework of the Arab League.

The two countries also said they look forward to the convening in Cairo of the forthcoming 19th conference of foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization member states. They expressed their conviction this conference will strengthen solidarity among the Islamic states.

The statement said the two countries also discussed the African issues and Arab-African cooperation proceeding from the historical ties between the Arab and African nations.

In this respect, the two countries welcomed independent Namibia's accession to the international community, and emphasized they will continue to support the people of South Africa to bring an end to the policy of apartheid and racial segregation.

The statement said the two countries reviewed the positive developments in the international situation, and stressed the Arab states possess resources and capabilities that ensure the utilization of these developments and their results in the interest of the Arab nation.

In this respect, the two countries expressed their eagerness to follow the results of the Arab-European ministerial conference conducted in Paris last December. They also expressed their satisfaction with the resumption of the Arab-European dialogue on the highest levels. This provides the dialogue with a momentum that should be preserved for the benefit of cooperation between the

Arab states and the EC, in view of the emergence of a united Europe in 1992 and the need to discuss formulas for cooperation between the Arab states and the EC after that date which ensure the interests of both parties.

The Egyptian delegation expressed its profound gratitude and appreciation for the kind hospitality and warm reception it was accorded in the Yemen Arab Republic.

The two sides agreed to convene the third session of the Joint Higher Egyptian-Yemeni Committee in Cairo early next year. The exact date for the committee meeting is to be fixed through diplomatic channels.

Palestinian Affairs

London Paper Interviews Yasir 'Arafat

PM2903095590 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 28 Mar 90 p 5

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Ghassan Shirbil in 'Arafat's aircraft as he traveled from Casablanca to Algiers, Algiers to Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Shirbil] What is the meaning of the Palestinians and Israelis sitting around a dialogue table after a long and bitter conflict?

['Arafat] It means the end of the claim made by world Zionism and echoed by the allies of the Zionist movement and Israel about people without land and land without people, that is the land of Palestine for the Israeli people. Their sitting with the Palestinians would mark the end of the claim they have been repeating since the 1897 Zionist congress. [passage omitted]

[Shirbil] Do you believe that such a dialogue is still probable or near after the cabinet crisis in Israel?

['Arafat] It is probable, but whether it is near or not depends not only us but on the situation in Israel and on the U.S. position because without U.S. support—which, as is known, is unlimited at all levels—Israel cannot sustain its occupation of Palestinian territory, continue to defy international legitimacy, or continue its crimes against the Palestinian people and their blessed intifadah.

[Shirbil] Judging by its comments on the situation in Israel, it seems the Palestinian leadership is betting on the Labor Party, although that party's generals were the ones who waged all Israel's wars, with the exception of the invasion of Lebanon.

['Arafat] I do not look at it that way. I say the intifadah, its resolute continuation and escalation, the political initiative, and the peace initiative announced by the Palestine National Council [PNC] in 1988, together with clever and confident Palestinian moves, have caused this crack at the top of the Israeli pyramid and at the highest level of authority, the government. It is a question of choice between war and peace. It is known that in this

region there is an increasing military buildup of all kinds of nuclear, chemical, and conventional weapons. That is why the next war would be a war of mass destruction. The days of lightning wars which Israel used to dream about are gone forever and have been gone since 1982 and the Beirut siege, which continued for 88 days.

Confrontation has continued in southern Lebanon since the invasion of Lebanon. It is a question of war or peace, a just and comprehensive peace that considers the Palestinian people's national rights, including their rights to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state on their national Palestinian soil according to the Palestinian initiative approved by the PNC. That is how we view the current changes in Israel. Do they want war and mass destruction of the region, or do they want peace, the peace of the brave we have offered them? Is there a De Gaulle or an Ian Smith in Israel? Making peace requires more courage than making war. [passage omitted]

[Shirbil] A decision to open fire gets unanimous support, but is there no fear the peace and dialogue decision might cause divisions within the Palestinian ranks?

[Arafat] No, because that is not a decision made by a single individual or a single organization. It was a decision made by the Central Council and approved by everyone.

[Shirbil] By my question I actually was referring to the danger of division in the occupied territory.

[Arafat] What is happening in fact confirms the legitimacy of the intifadah and of its ability to make events and to reap their fruit.

[Shirbil] The Israeli rift has occurred before the dialogue that is supposed to take place. Could, for example, there be differences in the calculations of the unified national leadership of the intifadah and Hamas inside [the occupied territory]?

[Arafat] Hamas is a part of the PLO, and it has members in the PNC and the Central Council. They deal with the unified command of the intifadah through Fatah. They have a right to voice their opinion, and we respect their opinion and believe in plurality and freedom of expression. Hamas has a right to express its views on every Palestinian affair negatively or positively, and it has a right to speak against any position or organization. This is the Palestinian democracy of which we are proud. [passage omitted]

[Shirbil] After the bus incident, a cloud appeared in the relations between the Egyptian and Palestinian leadership. What is the latest on this matter?

[Arafat] The cloud has passed, especially after my meeting with President Mubarak in Namibia. We will not allow any cloud to harm these relations. We are members of one and the same Arab family. We agree and disagree, but we do so as a family. You know I harbor special affection and great appreciation for President

Mubarak. That was the case in the past, is so at present, and will be so in the future.

[Shirbil] Does that mean you will be visiting Egypt soon?

[Arafat] The reason for my not going to Egypt has nothing whatsoever to do with this matter. The reason is I have been busy. There is nothing to prevent me from visiting Egypt. We will continue to go to Egypt, we will continue to express our views, and they will continue to express their views. Friendly differences of opinion do not undermine the cause.

[Shirbil] Last summer you met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, and a few weeks ago you met with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in Tunis. Have the obstacles preventing normalization of relations been removed? What do these meetings mean?

[Arafat] We are eager to restore normal relations with the brothers in Syria. I value the meetings I have had with the brother officials, and we will continue to conduct and enhance such meetings in the interest of facing the danger now threatening the Arab nation as a result of the new flood of Jewish immigration into Palestine. The purpose of these new multitudes is not to reoccupy Palestine, but to create a greater Israel. This map inscribed on the Israeli currency (at this point he takes an Israeli coin out of his pocket) under the Jewish candelabrum is an indication of the dimensions and danger of this Jewish immigration, whose targets are all of Lebanon, all of Jordan, two-thirds of Syria, three-quarters of Iraq, and Sinai, in addition to Palestine.

The Palestinian children who are throwing stones and confronting the Israeli war machine not only are defending Palestine. They are resisting the greater Israel plan. That calls for a firm, unified, responsible, and effective Arab stand in the face of this new challenge, which threatens the very essence of Arab national security. God is my witness, I have spoken. The matter calls for an Arab meeting at the highest level and requires the aid pledged by the Arab brothers for the intifadah be honored, for the intifadah has been engaging 60,000-70,000 Israeli soldiers every day. We thank those who have honored their commitments, and we draw attention to the circumstances of our people.

[Shirbil] Is the Lebanese file still one of the main obstacles preventing the normalization of relations between the Palestinian leadership and Damascus?

[Arafat] The Lebanese file is neither in my hands nor in the hands of the Syrian leadership. It has been entrusted to the Arab tripartite committee formed at the Casa-blanca summit conference.

OPEC Affairs

OPEC Chairman Comments on Vienna Meeting

PM2203094490 Paris LE MONDE in French
20 Mar 90 p 25

[Interview with OPEC Chairman and Algerian Oil Minister Sadek Boussena by Veronique Maurus—date and place not given]

[Text] [Maurus] The OPEC meeting that just ended in Vienna was the shortest and calmest the cartel has experienced for almost 10 years. Is the oil market at a turning point?

[Boussena] The period of major quarrels is over. If things continue as they have during the last two years, there is a strong chance of OPEC's (production) capacities shortly being used at a very high level. The oil market will become increasingly sensitive to minor events like the closure of an oil pipeline or a North Sea platform.

[Maurus] Is there reason to fear a new major oil price increase and when?

[Boussena] No one can answer those two questions accurately. But we have all the ingredients for an upward price trend. First, at the level of crude oil production. Demand is picking up and, unless there is a surprise regarding world growth, the problem now is whether the producers, OPEC or non-OPEC, have the ability to respond to it. The producers outside the organization are apparently already functioning at full capacity. They will find it particularly difficult to respond to any new demand because the two main world producers—the United States and the USSR—are seeing their production decrease for various reasons.

OPEC, for its part, has reserves ready and easy to mobilize with which it can respond to demand for three or four years. Beyond that, it will need to invest to develop and discover new fields. The main constraint is financial. At the present level of prices and revenues, very few member countries have the means of financing these programs with their own resources: Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates probably have. But, aside from those three countries, it will be very difficult to devote an enormous part of national investment to meeting export requirements. There therefore is a problem regarding crude oil in the long term.

Regarding refined products, we have noted for the past year the production apparatus has not adapted to the changes in demand on the qualitative and even quantitative level. Last summer, and then again this winter, it just took small problems with gasoline and fuel oil for prices to increase rapidly on the U.S. market. There is an investment problem in this sphere, too.

If prices are blocked at the present level for too long, this may lead to a conflict in two or three years' time. I do not rule out the risk of a drop in prices in the short term.

That is why OPEC is interested in participating in the organization of the transition.

[Maurus] But the oil companies can provide investment. Oil-producing countries in financial difficulty could agree to allow them to exploit their mineral resources.

[Boussena] The oil industry lagged behind in the eighties. We did not really withdraw investment, but at best, we stabilized reserves. No OPEC country now has the production capacity it had in 1979. We will have to invest to recover those capacities. At present this is the objective of most of the countries.

Given the present price level, oil must be sought where it can most easily be found. They have knocked at all the doors and have bowed to the facts: The cheapest reserves are located in the OPEC countries. Companies therefore stand to gain from developing new resources in those countries. It is in the oil-producing countries' interests to adapt to new forms of cooperation, because the big companies have a structural interest—they find oil on a big scale.

We must find new forms of partnership. But this development takes time. Politically speaking, it is not easy to make public opinion understand.

[Maurus] Are some OPEC countries not dreaming of orchestrating a new major oil price increase?

[Boussena] No. We want prices to increase to increase our revenue. But a rapid and sudden increase that comes like a bolt from the blue cannot be a good thing. We now know these increases are followed by equally sudden drops that cause major dysfunctions.

It is in OPEC's interest to organize a gradual price increase and not to control the market. It could not do so even if it wanted to. OPEC only represents some of the oil-exporting countries. It does not stand to gain from trying to manage the market. But it can have a medium-term policy for preventing excessively big price fluctuations and helping to increase prices.

[Maurus] Is this not the time to organize dialogue with the consumers?

[Boussena] If by that you mean formal negotiations between representatives of countries or organizations sitting round a big table, I do not think it is possible in the short term. There is no clear will on either side.

On the other hand, if it is a question of organizing contacts, drawing up a joint approach to forecasting, and creating the right financial and industrial conditions for a recovery, this is a historic opportunity to organize the transition. The big industrial countries must realize oil is a nonrenewable resource and they must think of means of satisfying the requirements of the oil-producing countries while helping them organize the increase in the value of these resources.

[Maurus] Why?

[Boussena] In the medium term, there also is a risk of tension in this sphere. Equipment and services are required to increase the crude oil production capacity. During the crisis in the eighties, however, the oil-related industries were demobilized.

[Maurus] Will OPEC discuss an increase in its benchmark price of \$18 at the 25 May conference?

[Boussena] The question will be debated. I do not know whether a decision will be made. A very large majority, I would even say virtually all the member countries, want to increase prices.

[Maurus] What rate of increase strikes you as desirable?

[Boussena] The member countries are reasonable. They think a gradual increase during a period of time is adequate. An additional \$1 or \$2 per barrel will not radically change the market or discourage demand.

[Maurus] I have been told some countries suggested at that meeting index-linking the price of crude oil to world inflation in the medium term...This is a return to the 1979 discussions!

[Boussena] OPEC is not capable of reaching agreement on an index-linking formula. If inflation is to be considered in the future price increase, it will happen naturally.

There will be no return to the al-Ta'if formula. It is impossible to go back to 1979. The consumers would be wrong to panic. The OPEC countries will be wise.

I repeat OPEC does not have control over the market. At the time, spot sales on a day by day basis only represented three percent of sales, the futures market did not exist. OPEC wants to play a role, it can influence the market, but it cannot make decisions. Its concern is to protect its revenue. It is obvious, however, that the spot market is a source of price instability in that it amplifies reactions and has a psychological impact. If the importers panic without reason, as was the case in 1979, OPEC will not readily be able to control the increase in prices.

[Maurus] It is difficult to believe in a truly reasonable OPEC.

[Boussena] Everyone learned from the experience. With oil revenues, Algeria buys food and industrial products. When you do calculations in retrospect, however, you see the gains made on oil prices were very quickly recovered. When oil prices fell again, industrial prices did not follow...I do not know a single country that wants to repeat the big 1979 price increase.

Algeria**U.S. Senate Decision Regarded With 'Indignation'***LD2803231190 Algiers Domestic Service in French
2200 GMT 28 Mar 90*

[Text] Following the position adopted by the U.S. Senate regarding al-Quds, the Foreign Ministry spokesman has published this statement: It is with deep indignation that Algeria learned the adoption by the U.S. Senate of a resolution recognizing al-Quds al-Sharif as the capital of the Zionist entity. This position taken by a legislative body ignores international legality, particularly resolutions of the Security Council, and is very serious. It occurs, observes the foreign ministry spokesman, at the moment when the Palestinian people are facing the exodus of the Soviet Jews and their settling by Israel in the occupied territories. It constitutes a declared support to Israel's annexionist plan and to its intransigence toward a just and lasting settlement of the Mideast issue. This very resolution, says the foreign ministry spokesman, is an encouragement to measures taken by Israel to impose its laws, its jurisdiction, and its administration upon the holy city, measures declared null and void by the international community.

Algeria warns against the consequences of such a resolution, which affects the whole of the Islamic community and calls for the strict respect of relevant resolutions of the Security Council. The Islamic Community should imperatively unite itself and mobilize its resources in favor of the Palestinian people so that it exercises its right to self-determination and the creation of its independent state with al-Quds al-Sharif as its capital. This was thus the integral statement of the foreign ministry following the vote of the U.S. Senate on the status of al-Quds.

New Hizballah Political Party Forms*LD2803153690 Algiers APS in Arabic 0915 GMT
28 Mar 90*

[Text] Algiers, 28 March 90, APS—A new political party of an Islamic orientation, Hizballah, has been founded, and its file of registration will soon be presented to the Ministry of Interior.

A statement distributed to the national press and signed on behalf of the executive bureau by Jamal al-Din Bardi says that the party is inspired by the Koran and the Prophet Muhammad in everything related to mankind and will implement God's justice between people.

The statement adds that the party will contribute to finding a practical solution in the economic, cultural, and social spheres and in building an Islamic state which responds to the humanitarian aspirations of the Algerian people and the Islamic motherland.

Egypt**UN Representative Craxi Meets With Mubarak***NC2803131490 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1100 GMT 28 Mar 90*

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Bettino Craxi, the UN secretary general's representative for debt affairs, this morning.

Craxi arrived in Cairo yesterday to discuss Egyptian and African debts and to review the outcome of Egypt's talks with the World Bank and IMF.

Confers With Sidqi*NC2803175290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1648 GMT
28 Mar 90*

[Text] Cairo, 28 Mar (MENA)—This afternoon Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi met with Bettino Craxi, the UN secretary general's assistant for debt affairs, and the delegation accompanying him, who are currently visiting Cairo, charged by the United Nations to discuss the debt problem. During the meeting, they reviewed developments related to the debt problem in the Third World, the need to reduce the debt burden, and the encouragement of development. They discussed the need for economic reforms to take place in stages to avoid negative effects on the economies of the debtor countries. Also attending the meeting were Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr. Salah Hamid, the Central Bank governor; and the ministers of cabinet affairs, economy, finance, and international cooperation.

Holds News Conference 28 Mar*NC2803183090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 28 Mar 90*

[Text] Bettino Craxi, the UN secretary general's special representative for debt affairs, has stated that when they met today he and President Husni Mubarak discussed the foreign debt problem facing Egypt, Africa, and developing countries generally. At a news conference at noon today, Craxi said that the talks placed special emphasis on the problem of Egypt's debts. He stated that, regarding the Egyptian trade balance, the majority of European countries, except for Italy, purchase less from Egypt than they sell to it. This represents one of the major problems for the Egyptian economy. He noted Egypt's huge foreign debts, represented in the military debts, which constitute a burden that is steadily increasing. He pointed out that the Arab countries should undertake a political commitment vis-a-vis the problems of foreign debts and development.

'Displeasure' Conveyed Over Qaddumi Behavior*JN2503122190 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic
23 Mar 90 p 8*

[Text] The AL-MUSAWWAR diplomatic editor has learned that the Palestinian delegation led by Jamal

al-Surani that recently visited Cairo told Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, that during recent Tunis meetings Faruq Qaddumi, who is acting as Palestinian foreign minister, behaved contrary to the decision made by the PLO Executive Committee during its meeting in Tunis two days before the Arab foreign ministers' meeting.

The Palestinian delegation told Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid that the Executive Committee's decision stressed that Faruq Qaddumi and the Palestinian delegation should adopt a neutral stance and refrain from expressing an opinion when the return of the Arab League headquarters to Cairo was debated. The decision was made due to the embarrassing Palestinian attitude toward Tunisia, which hosted the PLO after its departure from Lebanon, and toward Egypt, which is devoting its political efforts to the Palestine question.

Jamal al-Surani told Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid that Faruq Qaddumi's failure to abide by the Executive Committee's decision requires a questioning of the reasons for his individual and personal behavior.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid had earlier conveyed to the Palestinian delegation Egypt's displeasure with Faruq Qaddumi's behavior, especially since Egypt appreciated the PLO's circumstances and embarrassing position and only asked that Palestinian delegation remain neutral. But what happened was that Faruq Qaddumi entered the suite of Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, who was meeting with the Kuwaiti, Egyptian, Tunisian, Omani, and Moroccan foreign ministers to reach a formula pleasing Tunisia and respecting the Arab League Charter, which stipulates that Cairo is the headquarters of the Arab League Secretariat. Qaddumi nervously told the meeting ministers that he could not conceive of the Secretariat's return to Cairo, where the Israeli flag is hoisted, and that he was compelled to give up his chairmanship of the foreign ministers' meeting. He left the place followed by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, who tried to convince him to reverse his decision for several reasons:

Firstly, the bill organizing the Arab foreign ministers' meetings does not entitle the chairman to step down, and if the Palestinian delegation objects to the Secretariat's return to Egypt, the head of the Palestinian delegation to the meetings, ambassador Bal'awi, could submit his objection.

Secondly, the Arab foreign ministers agreed to hold a secret session to discuss the subject of the Secretariat's return to its permanent headquarters in Egypt. They also said Qaddumi should attend the meeting in his capacity as chairman of this session in order to discuss his ideas with the Arab foreign ministers.

Two hours later, the Arab foreign ministers met in a secret session headed by Faruq Qaddumi, who again raised the issue of his abandonment of chairmanship for the reasons mentioned earlier.

However, the Arab foreign ministers rejected this position because it does not have any legal grounds as far as procedures pertaining to the session convening are concerned, and also because the Palestinian delegate could announce his stand opposing the draft resolution agreed upon by the five-man committee headed by the Iraqi foreign minister. The draft resolution stipulates that:

1. The Arab League headquarters shall return to Cairo during the September 1990 session in implementation of Article 10 of the League's charter.
2. A center for the League shall be established in Tunis.
3. Tunis shall be considered the permanent headquarters of the Arab League Educational, Cultural, and Scientific Organization and the Arab States Broadcasting Union.
4. The building of the League's Tunis center shall be completed.
5. The Arab League employees and workers who cannot move to Cairo shall be fairly and generously compensated. Likewise, the situation of the employees and workers working at the League's permanent Cairo headquarters shall be compensated fairly in case they lose their jobs when the league headquarters is moved to Cairo.
6. A committee to be headed by Tariq 'Aziz comprising the Egyptian, Tunisian, Moroccan, and Omani foreign ministers as well as the Arab League secretary general shall be asked to consider ways to implement articles of this draft resolution.

Faruq Qaddumi was surprised by the unanimous stand of the Arab foreign ministers in support of the draft resolution. Therefore, he resorted to procrastination once again by calling for a reconsideration of the issue in the open session of the Arab foreign ministers after the issue is listed on its agenda. This prompted Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid to intervene to stop the attempts of prevarication and postponement made by Faruq Qaddumi.

In his speech, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid affirmed the following:

First, Egypt is baffled by Faruq Qaddumi's stand, which is not supported by any legal grounds, since the PLO delegate could oppose the draft resolution. However, the session chairman does not have the right to abandon his chairmanship of the session.

Second, the objective behind abandoning the session chairmanship is an attempt to postpone meetings of the Arab foreign ministers; and this is unacceptable to the foreign ministers.

Third, there is no need for a reconsideration of the issue pertaining to the return of the Arab League's General Secretariat in an open session to be held by the Arab

foreign ministers, simply because the Arab foreign ministers, including the Egyptian and Tunisian foreign ministers, have affirmed their support for the draft resolution proposed by the five-man committee. Consequently, we are faced with a resolution that has actually been issued by the foreign ministers. Why, then, should we discuss the issue in an open session once again?

Fourth, Faruq Qaddumi's stand runs counter to the assurances that Cairo received from the PLO, which stipulated that the PLO would maintain a neutral stance when the issue was being discussed.

Fifth, Cairo rejects any attempt to undermine its pan-Arab stand by any party. Cairo is keen on safeguarding Arab solidarity. However, nobody should expect Cairo to remain silent over attempts to undermine its position.

Faced with this hard situation, Faruq Qaddumi had no choice but to say that the Arab foreign ministers unanimously endorsed the return of the Arab League to its permanent headquarters, without making any mention of the need for another meeting of the foreign ministers.

International Groups To Finance Energy Projects

JN2403162990 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
22 Mar 90 p 10

[By Ahmad Hashim]

[Excerpt] International finance organizations have confirmed their complete trust in the Egyptian economy by agreeing to finance electricity and energy projects, which form the infrastructure for the country's industrial and productive projects. The organizations agreed to provide \$800 million to finance the giant al-Kuraymat electricity generating project in northern Upper Egypt.

This was stated by Eng. Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy, following his meeting yesterday with 'Abd-al-Latif al-Hamad, chairman of the Arab Economic and Social Development Fund, who agreed to the Fund giving up to \$100 million in an easy-terms loan. USAID agreed to grant \$200 million. The African Development Fund will provide \$300 million, the European Investment Bank \$80 million, and the Kuwaiti Fund \$120 million. [passage omitted]

Soviet Trade Delegation Arrives 25 Mar

NC2503144590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1407 GMT
25 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 25 Mar (MENA)—A Soviet trade delegation, led by Moriasov, Soviet deputy minister of foreign trade [name and title as received], arrived in Cairo today for a one-week visit.

During the visit the Soviet delegation will hold talks with the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade and Chamber of Commerce officials about exports.

Austrian Defense Minister Ends Visit

NC2403155390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1442 GMT
24 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 24 Mar (MENA)—Robert Lichal, Austrian minister for national defense, and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo today after an eight-day official visit to Egypt at the invitation of General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and war production.

During the visit, the Austrian official held talks with Gen. Abu-Talib, and Dr. Jamal al-Sayyid, minister of state for war production, on ways to bolster military cooperation and joint military industry.

Lichal also visited several military factories and training installations and was briefed on the progress made by the Egyptian Armed Forces.

Arab League's Ibrahimi Departs Cairo

NC2503134390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT
25 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 25 Mar (MENA)—Lakhdar Ibrahimi, Arab League assistant secretary general, left Cairo today following a week-long visit to Egypt. Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received Ibrahimi during the visit.

Drugs Smuggled via Gulf of Al-'Aqaba Seized

JN2503165790 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH
in Arabic 24 Mar 90 p 7

[By al-Sayyid al-Ma'badi]

[Summary] The Counternarcotics General Administration has foiled an attempt to smuggle drugs between Jordan and Egypt via the Gulf of al-'Aqabah and seized two sacks of hashish and raw opium and one kg of heroin worth more than 2 million pounds. Approximately 90,000 poppy plants and Indian hemp planted in vast areas of land in northern Sinai and al-Qantarah worth approximately 1 million pounds, were also seized.

Libya

London Paper Interviews UN Envoy on Al-Rabitah

PM2803092490 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 25 Mar 90 p 4

[Interview with Libyan Ambassador to the United Nations Dr. 'Ali al-Turayki by Huda al-Husayni; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Husayni] While France maintains that the al-Rabitah plant suffered no damage, the U.S. State Department says that the plant was heavily damaged by the fire. Was the plant damaged or not?

[Al-Turayki] The question is not how much damage was caused by the fire, but why this great interest in that Arab plant, which is producing or is meant to be producing medicines. In my view, the issue is no longer about Libya or the plant. The fact of the matter is that there is a U.S. and Western decision to prevent the Arabs from making any progress, achieving any development, or obtaining any technology that would enable them to face the Zionist arrogance and challenge.

Why does the West not talk about the Israeli nuclear weapons or use its satellites to detect these weapons? Surely everyone knows that Israel has hundreds of nuclear bombs and that it is the only state in the region which has not signed any international agreement.

Why does the West refuse to inspect Israel's chemical weapons industry installations? The Zionist entity is the only state to have used internationally banned gas bombs—against Palestinian women, causing hundreds of miscarriages. Why does the West remain silent? That is very suspect indeed. We in Libya have emphasized from the outset that we have no intention or desire to produce mass destruction weapons. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] If, as you say, the al-Rabitah plant is for the production of medicines, why does the West insist that its aim is to produce chemical weapons and materials?

[Al-Turayki] Do you know that, basically, chemical weapons do not require advanced industry or high technology? They are called "the weapons of the poor." The purpose of their insistence is to prevent the Arabs from possessing any weapon that might counter or reduce the threat of Israeli nuclear superiority.

We have agreed to international inspection within the framework of an international decision providing for inspection in the region as a whole. We have sent letters to the UN secretary general and the Security Council chairman notifying them of that, but we absolutely do not agree that Libya should be singled out and exclusively put under pressure for inspection.

The recent Arab health ministers conference decided that the al-Rabitah project shall become an Arab project with participation of the Arab states in the plant for the manufacture of medical products. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] When will you start producing medicines at the plant?

[Al-Turayki] Now, after the damage caused by the fire, I cannot give a date, but I reaffirm our commitment to the decision made by the Arab health ministers in this connection.

[Al-Husayni] Who were the people arrested after the fire at the plant? What nationality are they?

[Al-Turayki] Investigations are now under way. A number of people have been placed in preventive custody, the aim being to find out who was responsible. I believe that the results of the investigations will be known in the near future.

[Al-Husayni] Tripoli has suspended payment of compensation to the German companies which dealt with Libya and has suspended trade transactions with them. Are you sure that Germany was behind what happened at the plant?

[Al-Turayki] Germany's attitude toward the Arabs is not reassuring. Germany was the first state to pay massive reparations to Israel. President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir and many Arab states broke off relations with it at the time but unfortunately Germany continued with its unfriendly policy toward the Arabs. Although we cooperated with it considerably—it was almost Libya's first trading partner—it took no account of the benefits it gained from Libya and the Arab homeland.

Historically, there was no lack of friendship between us and Germany. On the contrary, there was fellow feeling between the Arab nation and Germany because the latter did not colonize the Arab states and always opposed British and French colonialism in the Middle East. The current German attitude is perhaps the result of pressures put on it and of the attempts by the allies to impose hegemony on it and to make it always feel guilty. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] Let us go back to the issue of the al-Rabitah plant. All the states that you accuse of having sabotaged the plant have denied it. Do you have any evidence to support your charges?

[Al-Turayki] I can assure you that so far no definite official charge has been made against any state. Of course there are states which have an interest in sabotaging the plant. The United States threatened us directly, so it has an interest in it, and so have the Israelis, but so far we have not made any charges. Even when leader al-Qadhafi spoke he said, "if" Germany was involved...

The investigations are continuing and the picture will become clear.

[Al-Husayni] Some people claim that Colonel al-Qadhafi said in one of the people's congress' secret sessions that the al-Rabitah plant was indeed producing chemical weapons and that the United States wanted to destroy the plant. And he also said: We cannot fight the United States, so you must do something about the plant. Is that true?

[Al-Turayki] I have no knowledge of that whatsoever.

[Al-Husayni] You have not heard about it?

[Al-Turayki] I know nothing about it.

[Al-Husayni] There are those who accuse the regime of fabricating a "harmless" fire at the plant.

[Al-Turayki] That is illogical. Why would we build it if we wanted to burn it down and how could we burn it without causing damage?

[Al-Husayni] It has been claimed that you burnt goods which you placed close to the plant.

[Al-Turayki] That claim contradicts the findings of the U.S. satellites. The pictures transmitted by these satellites indicate that the plant was burnt down completely by the fire and that it is no longer fit for use. These satellites are highly efficient.

[Al-Husayni] But the French say that according to the satellites of one of their companies, the plant was not damaged.

[Al-Turayki] According to the Americans the French information is inaccurate.

[Al-Husayni] In other words, you now rely on the Americans.

[Al-Turayki] There can be no doubt that their technological progress is more significant.

[Al-Husayni] I will tell you what else is being said. It is being claimed that the plant was burnt down to pave the way to and to justify a wave of arrests in Libya. Do waves of arrests occur in Libya from time to time?

[Al-Turayki] That is incorrect. I do not believe that we need to destroy our factories to justify arrests. As you know, the campaign of defamation against Libya has been going on for a long time. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] What is your comment on the statement by Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel at a press conference in London to the effect that his country's former regime exported to Libya 1,000 tons of semtex explosive, enough to last 150 years.

[Al-Turayki] That is definitely untrue. The Czechoslovak president is trying to please the West. He may be a good playwright but his actions do not denote seriousness, because he sometimes rides a motorcycle, sometimes he rides round the palace on a small vehicle, and sometimes he goes up while other times he comes down. I do not believe that he can be taken seriously. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] When will you reopen your embassy in Egypt?

[Al-Turayki] We and Egypt have resolved the matter of opening embassies. Relations are proceeding excellently and meetings between the leaders of the two countries are continuing, which is positive and normal.

It is time we supported one another and dealt with one another better than in the past. We can see Western Europe's current interest in Eastern Europe. President Gorbachev speaks of a united Europe, and so does the

United States. Aid is flooding into Eastern Europe. In past weeks Poland has received 10 times more than 50 African states have received. We saw at the United Nations how the East European states wanted to disengage themselves from the Arab region and to find a special position with respect to Western Europe. I believe that these matters and developments demand that we Arabs deal amongst ourselves in economic matters and deal with the world as a whole. It is time we viewed our own interests more positively.

[Al-Husayni] Without hostility to the rest of the world?

[Al-Turayki] By God, we do not seek enmity. We, the Arab nation, are a peaceful nation. We have no interest in antagonizing anyone. It is in our interest to establish good relations with Europe. The European states are our neighbors, there is Arab-European dialogue, and there is a possibility of Arab-European economic integration. It is in our interest to establish good relations with all, including the United States. We do not seek enmity as an objective. All we ask is that others appreciate mutual interests, because a single hand cannot clap. The others should have the same feelings toward us.

For Libya, hostility is not a good thing. We have expressed willingness to sit down with the Americans. We urge the settlement of problems through cordial dialogue, but even if the other side has a superpower complex, we do not have a complex about being a small state or being afraid of the major powers. I believe the same applies to the rest of the Arab states.

Emergency GPC Session Drafts Resolutions

LD2803124890 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1030 GMT
28 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli, 28 Mar (JANA)—The General People's Congress [GPC], the gathering of basic people's congresses, people's committees, trade unions, and professional associations and leagues, concluded its emergency session last night. The session was devoted to drafting the resolutions of the emergency session of the basic people's congresses, which was held in camera on 17 March 1990. Following is the text of these resolutions which were drafted by the GPC:

Article 1. Concerning the brother leader of the revolution's address to the ordinary 16th session of the GPC, the masses of the basic people's congresses in their emergency session of 1399 after the death of the prophet, corresponding to 1990 AD, discussed the contents of the brother leader's address to the GPC and decided the following:

1. The commitment of the masses of the basic people's congresses to the contents of the brother leader's address. This would be considered as an action program to be implemented by the people's congresses, which would also prepare the necessary draft laws and present them to the basic people's congresses;

2. The brother leader of the revolution is to take charge of presenting the practical drafts for implementing the elements of the revolutionary program;

3. The natural thing in [the system of] people's authority is for the masses to choose directly its executive bodies. During the period of revolutionary transformation, the buildings of progress and the fulfillment of the revolutionary program adopted by the basic people's congresses, the matter requires the selection of committed revolutionary elements who are able to implement the revolutionary program. These elements will be guided by the brother leader and will be presented to the basic people's congresses for election;

4. The need to transform society into one of production by destroying the society of consumption and building a jamahiri society for production;

5. To lay down the necessary controls in order to limit the hemorrhage of foreign currency and to deposit what is available of it for strategic projects;

6. Organization of the greater and lesser pilgrimage;

7. Affirmation that the principle of progressive taxation will be implemented.

8. To prepare a draft law on organizing brokerage;

9. To spread cooperatives in various spheres;

10. To combat heresy and to confront imperialist, Zionist, and reactionary conspiracies;

11. To consolidate the defensive capability of the Great Jamahiriya and to develop the programs of scientific research and strategic industries in order to confront the dangers threatening the Arab motherland;

12. To choose committed revolutionary elements to work in the brotherhood bureaus and people's bureaus [Libyan embassies in Arab and foreign countries respectively]

Article 2: The integration project between the Great Jamahiriya and Sudan:

The masses of the Basic People's Congresses [BPC's] have discussed the integration project between the Great Jamahiriya and Sudan, and out of their loyalty to the principles of the Great 1 September Revolution which heralded the all-embracing Arab unity, and while saluting the relentless efforts of the brother leader of the revolution, Colonel Mu'ammār al-Qadhafi to achieve this Pan-Arab objective, and in emphasizing the resolution of the BPC's at their various sessions on accomplishing this historic deed, and while saluting the masses of the fraternal people of Sudan and appreciating the response of General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir and his colleagues to the call for unity, have decided the following:

1. To endorse the integration project with the following observations:

2. Stressing the speedy implementation of this project and the need to develop it toward the realization of total integration between the one Arab people in the two countries as a step on the road toward all-embracing Arab unity where the masses possess authority, the resources, and the arms to face the Zionist train of death and to confront the reactionary and imperialist plots aiming at subjugating the Arab nation.

3. Inviting the Arab and African countries to join it.

4. Stressing the need for guarantees which ensure the development and continuation of this project.

Article 3:

The U.S. provocations and encroachments:

The masses of the BPC's have discussed the U.S. provocations and encroachments against the Great Jamahiriya and the Arab nation, and while considering the remarks of the brother leader on 15 March 1990 as the embodiment of the decisive and historic stand against imperialist threats, have decided:

1. To confront these actions with all their might and to work toward aborting schemes which encroach on the achievements and gains of the Great 1 September Revolution.

2. To work toward building up the strength of the Great Jamahiriya to enable it to confront aggression and to foil reactionary, Zionist, and imperialist schemes aimed at subjugating the Arab nation.

3. To promote relations with fraternal and friendly states and to enter into alliance with all peoples struggling for freedom, and to call on them to adopt revolutionary attitudes in order to confront imperialist policies.

4. To mobilize material and human resources and to be prepared for any confrontation that might be imposed on the Great Jamahiriya.

5. To entrust the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation and all other popular means of action to:

a. Expose the aggressive policies pursued by the U.S. Administration against the Arab Libyan people and the Arab nation at all international levels.

b. Demand from the Mediterranean countries a ban on the use of their territories and skies by American forces and fleets in aggression on the Great Jamahiriya in order to maintain the security and safety of the region.

c. Urge the Arab regimes to boycott the United States economically if it continues its hostile policy toward the Arab nation.

d. Express the appreciation of the Arab Libyan people to the fraternal and friendly states and organizations which have declared their stand against aggression, and the

Libyan people's condemnation of collaborators with the U.S. Administration in its aggression on the people of the Great Jamahiriyah.

GPC Rejects U.S. Senate Resolution on Jerusalem

LD2803162290 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic
1330 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Yesterday the General People's Congress [GPC] issued a statement about the U.S. Senate resolution recognizing Arab Jerusalem as the capital of the Zionist emeny. Here is the text of the statement:

The GPC, the gathering of People's Congresses, People's Committees and professional unions, societies and associations, which is meeting in an extraordinary session, rejects and condemns the U.S. Senate's resolution which regards occupied Arab Jerusalem as the capital of the racist Zionist entity. This behavior exposes the U.S. institution's disregard for international law and the will of the international community expressed in the United Nations, and the UN Security Council, which has repeatedly stated that the Zionist occupation of Arab Palestine and Jerusalem is illegal.

Libya-Chad Meeting Reportedly Opens in Gabon

AB2703132090 Paris AFP in French 1554 GMT
26 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Libreville, 26 Mar (AFP)—The Chadian and Libyan foreign ministers opened a two-day meeting here today with Gabon as mediator in their territorial dispute over the Aozou Strip, it was learned from an informed source.

The meeting is being held behind closed doors and is surrounded by a certain amount of discretion. It comes in the wake of the Chad-Libya Joint Commission session held in Ndjamena in mid-March that did not advance the negotiations. Gabon, it is recalled, chairs the OAU ad hoc committee charged with finding a solution to the Chad-Libya border dispute. [passage omitted]

On his arrival in Libreville yesterday, Acheikh ibn Oumar, Chadian minister of foreign affairs, stressed in a statement to the press that the two sides had only six months left to reach a negotiated settlement. "We are exploring all avenues for reaching such a settlement, and it is essential that discussions be pursued," he added.

The Libyan secretary for foreign liaison, Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, made no statements on his arrival in the Gabonese capital. Certain sources say, however, that Tripoli wants the extension of the one-year deadline fixed by the Algiers outline accords for a negotiated settlement of the dispute and after which the two sides would refer the case to the International Court of Justice. [passage omitted]

The main stumbling block is the question of the Libyan POW's, whose number is not known and who are still detained in Ndjamena. It seems Tripoli is making their

release a precondition for any progress in efforts to find a political solution to the Aozou Strip question. [passage omitted]

The reactivation of Gabonese mediation is therefore aimed at "breaking" the deadlock because it has clearly emerged from meetings between representatives of the two countries that the situation is "deadlocked," informed sources in Libreville said.

Chadian Minister on Talks With Libya, Fighting

AB2703164190 Libreville Africa No. 1
in French 1230 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Intense fighting has broken out again in eastern Chad. Clashes, described as particularly violent, have been going on between government forces and dissidents entrenched in the Darfur Province of neighboring Sudan. Judging from this fighting, which began on Sunday, 25 March, and which follows the October and November 1989 battles, it seems the Army is experiencing difficulty, isn't that so, Luis Mba Ondo:

[Ondo] As you said, particularly violent fighting has broken out between Chadian Government forces and armed rebels from the Sudanese Province of Darfur. The rebels, under the command of Idriss Deby, former Chadian commander in chief and now a dissident, are in control of certain areas inside Chadian territory. The Ndjamena authorities have officially accused Libya of blatant aggression. They claim, in fact, that the rebel forces are part of the Islamic Legion, which is armed and trained by Tripoli. The Chadian Government has also accused Sudan of siding with Chadian enemies. As of this morning, Tripoli and Khartoum had not yet reacted to these accusations.

An official report issued by the Chadian authorities speaks of 600 dead on the enemy side, while in Khartoum, the rebels claim to have killed more than 1,200 soldiers including 191 officers of the government forces.

These clashes, for which Chad is pointing an accusing finger at Libya for supporting the dissidents, are not anything new in relations between the two countries. However, it must be noted that they might slow down the pace of the negotiations on the dispute over the Aozou Strip. And as part of this exchange of views, the foreign ministers of the two countries and the members of their respective delegations began a meeting yesterday in Libreville, Gabon, under the auspices of the Gabonese foreign minister, whose country chairs the OAU ad hoc committee on this dispute over the Aozou Strip which, as you know, is being claimed by both Ndjamena and Tripoli.

Libya is supporting the dissidents. Chadian Foreign Minister Acheikh ibn Oumar confirmed this a short while ago by telephone when he was interviewed by our reporter Pierre Brice Ndoumba:

[Begin recording] [Acheikh] Indeed, since the destruction in October and November 1989 of bases of the Islamic Legion at [names indistinct] in the Darfur Region, in the western part of Sudan, we drew the attention of the African and international public to Libyan attempts, in complicity with the Sudanese Government, to reactivate these bases and perpetrate new attacks against Chad.

At the beginning of this year, with the assistance of other African countries south of the Sahara, we drew the attention of the Libyan authorities and protested against the massive compulsory recruitment among the African communities living in Libya. Also, we warned both the Sudanese Government and the Libyan authorities against these activities and all attempts to jeopardize Chad's stability.

What happened on 25 March, namely the violent attack carried out by Libya with Sudan's complicity on our positions at the border posts at Bahai and Tine, has only confirmed our concerns and our warnings. And this demonstrates, once more, that the Libyan Government has never renounced, despite its official position, its hegemonic dream of destabilizing Chad and placing Chad under its rule one way or the other. This forces us, as Chadian officials, to take all legitimate measures to ensure the people's tranquility, our territorial integrity, and our state's sovereignty, by forcing those who took the initiative of carrying out this aggression to bear the consequence of their action.

[Ndoumba] Now, Mr. Minister, we face a de facto situation, as you have just confirmed. So, will this resumption of hostilities not jeopardize the current deliberations of your conference in Libreville?

[Acheikh] Indeed, this might jeopardize the deliberations of this conference because the tension on the field and the atmosphere of aggression are not conducive for quiet discussions on the implementation of the Algiers general agreement. This might also complicate things because from our experience with Libya, we have found out that each time there is such tension Libya hardens its stand, believing that Chad's stand has been weakened and that it can now [words indistinct] and we are expecting a more negative attitude and more absurd demands on the part of the Libyan side.

However, this does not jeopardize our desire and our determination to continue toward a peaceful solution for the territorial dispute born out of the occupation of the Aozou by the Libyan forces. It is in the interest of the Chadian people as well as in that of the Libyan people and all African people. [end recording]

Chad's Acting Foreign Minister on Border Attacks

*AB2703230290 Ndjamena Domestic Service
in French 1900 GMT 27 March*

[Statement issued by Chadian Agriculture Minister Gouara Lassou, acting on behalf of Foreign Minister

Acheikh ibn Oumar, while briefing foreign diplomats on the Darfur, Sudan, border situation; in Ndjamena on 27 March—live or recorded]

[Text] Excellencies the Ambassadors, representatives of governmental and nongovernmental organizations, on several occasions we met you to brief you about the serious situation on Chad's eastern border. The last such meeting was held on 1 December 1989 during which we discussed the seriousness of the situation caused, in particular, by Libya's increased desire to destabilize Chad at all costs.

Indeed, after the total destruction of the aggression bases of the mercenaries in the pay of Libya, under the banner of the Islamic Legion, in October and November 1989 in the Darfur Region in Sudan, we warned against attempts to regroup the survivors scattered everywhere in Sudan, in order to reconstitute a force of aggression and destabilization Chad. These concerns have now been confirmed.

Indeed, according to information in our possession, a Libyan intelligence officer of the Libyan People's Bureau in Khartoum was summoned to Tripoli from 11 through 17 March. He was charged with an emergency mission whose main objective was to deploy all means to resolve the Chadian problem through military action. This officer was also charged with setting up a detailed plan to collect information on Chad and to recruit Chadian seasonal workers residing in Sudan as well as other people of various nationalities.

To implement this task of destabilization, enormous financial means were placed at the disposal of this officer, who was directed to accomplish this objective whatever the costs. Thus, on 25 March 1990, with the support of mercenaries in the pay of Libya and with the active complicity of the Sudanese regime, columns of the Islamic Legion early in the morning attacked the Chadian National Armed Forces in the Bahai and Tine localities in Chadian territory.

The new element in this aggression is the stand of Sudan whose territory is officially being used as a stepping stone for hostile activities against Chad, as was confirmed by the approval of the Sudanese regime concerning the integration accord with Libya.

This demonstrates clearly that the Libyan regime has never renounced its desire to destabilize Chad, despite the constant readiness of the Chadian Government to solve the border dispute between it and Libya through peaceful means, thus respecting the pertinent resolutions of the OAU and the provisions of the Algiers general agreement concluded between the Government of Chad and Libya.

Your Excellencies, in the face of this situation, Chad reaffirms its determination to use all its means to defend the security of its borders and to preserve its independence, its unity, its sovereignty, and its territorial integrity. So, ambassadors, representatives of government

and nongovernment organizations, this is the briefing I have to make to you following the communique issued by the government, which was read yesterday on Radio Chad, concerning the situation prevailing at Chad's eastern border.

Oil Secretary Meets With Soviet Minister

LD2503124990 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1219 GMT
25 Mar 90

[Text] In Tripoli this morning, the brother secretary of the people's committee for petroleum met with the Soviet minister of foreign economic relations and the delegation accompanying him, who are currently visiting the Great Jamahiriyah.

The talks during the meeting dealt with aspects of cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Soviet Union, in economic and technical fields, and ways of improving these relations.

Morocco

Spokesman Condemns U.S. Resolution on Jerusalem

LD2703100490 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
0700 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Excerpt] The resolution of the U.S. Congress to consider Jerusalem as the capital of Israel has aroused many reactions in Arab and Islamic capitals. In Morocco, a spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation said yesterday that the Kingdom of Morocco deeply regrets the U.S. resolution. The spokesman said it not only touches on the sensitivities of Arabs and Muslims in all corners of the world, but also basically contravenes international law and the decisions taken at international level concerning the status of the holy city of Jerusalem, including the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and the General Assembly. The spokesman went on to say that this resolution ignores the inalienable legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and consolidates Israel's aggressive policy. [passage omitted]

Broadcasting Agreement Signed With USSR

LD2803173590 Rabat MAP in English 1230 GMT
28 Mar 90

[Text] Rabat, March 28. (MAP)—Morocco and the Soviet Union have concluded a protocol on bilateral cooperation in matters of information.

The protocol comprises the cooperation programs between the Moroccan and Soviet radio and TV corporations for 1990/91 and 1991/92.

It was signed earlier this week in Moscow by director of Moroccan radio and TV Mohamed Trisha and by vice-president of the Soviet Radio and TV Petr Richov.

The protocol, aimed at reinforcing bilateral cooperation in the audio-visual field, provides mainly for exchange of radio and TV programs and of expertise and for cooperation in matters of training, particularly journalistic, technical and artistic.

Sudan

'Sources' Confirm Thwarting of Coup Plot

PM2803153390 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 27 Mar 90 pp 1-2

[Excerpts] London, Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Informed sources yesterday confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the security authorities in Sudan arrested four Ummah Party figures and 21 officers, including some retired officers. The sources pointed out that these arrests coincided with reports by some quarters about the discovery of movements designed to carry out a military coup in the first week of Ramadan [starting 27 March]. [passage omitted]

The arrests made the day before yesterday included Ummah Party Secretary General Dr 'Umar Nur al-Da'im, Major General Fadlallah Nasir (retired), 'Abd-al-Rahman Farah, and Lieutenant General Mahdi Babu Nimr.

There was speculation that 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, son of the former prime minister, was also arrested, but the sources could not confirm that to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT.

The sources said that the officer being interrogated by the security authorities as the leader of the coupist movement is Major General Muhammad Hamid.

It is worth mentioning here that Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is still under house arrest at one of his relatives' home in Khartoum. [passage omitted]

Military Source on Uncovering 'Plot'

EA2803163690 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] A responsible military source has announced the uncovering of a limited move for achieving sabotage aims. [words indistinct] to create a state of anarchy during the doctors' recent strike, but they were contained through the consciousness and realization of the masses of the Sudanese people.

The source added that after the failure of this move, these quarters tried to win over some weak-spirited people inside the Armed Forces in order to achieve sabotage aims and to give a [word indistinct] picture about instability in the country, despite the fact that they are an insignificant minority.

At the end of his statement, the source confirmed that the various security organs managed to uncover the plot after a watch and surveillance operation that lasted for more than four months.

One 'Abd al-Rahman Farah, former adviser to the security organ of the dissolved Ummah Party, and some civilian and military (?individuals) were taken into custody. They are being interrogated. He pointed out that whoever (?is proved) not to be involved in this work will be released.

More on 'Sabotage' Attempt

EA2803203490 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 28 Mar (SUNA)—A responsible military source [words indistinct] has announced to SUNA the uncovering of a limited move to achieve sabotage aims. The situation has been contained. Interrogation of those involved in the move has begun.

The source pointed out that after the staging of the National Salvation Revolution, some elements from the dissolved Ummah and Communist Parties, in coordination with some former trade unions and parties, signed [word indistinct] called the national alliance charter and endeavored to create a state of anarchy during the doctors' recent strike.

However, this was contained through the consciousness and awareness of the masses of the Sudanese people. The source added that after the failure of this move, these quarters tried to win over some weak-spirited people inside the Armed Forces in order to achieve sabotage aims in order to give a false picture about instability in the country. [passage omitted]

Minister on Egyptian Military Accord, Rebel Talks

EA2803123590 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2145 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] An agreement on the exchange of experience between commanders and officers in the Armed Forces of Sudan and Egypt has been completed. This came in a press statement made by Major General (RTD) 'Uthman Muhammad al-Hasan, minister of state for defense, and reported by the Egyptian Newspaper AL-AHRAM yesterday.

On the southern problem, the minister of state for defense stressed that the problem could not be solved militarily, only peacefully. His Excellency (?added) that Sudan was incurring losses from the continuation of the war, and it was harming the process of development and building. He called on the rebels to come to the negotiating table without preconditions.

His Excellency stressed that Cairo would play a prominent role in the next round of negotiations, preparations for which were under way. The minister of state for defense pointed out that the Sudanese Armed Forces had

achieved great superiority over the rebels in some areas of strategic importance in eastern Equatoria.

Relief Convoy Departs for Wau

EA2803124390 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2145 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] In Sennar town [Blue Nile Province] staff Colonel Martin Malwal, Revolution Command Council member and the political supervisor for Bahr al-Ghazal region, supervised the departure of a relief convoy destined for Wau carrying 1,000 tonnes of sorghum from [word indistinct] especially for Bahr al-Ghazal region, totalling 1,000 tonnes. Col. Martin stressed that the Bahr al-Ghazal regional government [word indistinct] (?determined) to transport the supply stuffs and other specialized commodities to the region before the end of next (?April).

Tunisia

London Paper Interviews Foreign Minister Khelil

PM2603141790 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 23 Mar 90 pp 28, 29

[Interview with Tunisian Foreign Minister Ismael Khelil by Usamah 'Ajjaj in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: Your participation in the talks between Presidents Mubarak and Zin El Abidine was your first task as foreign minister. How do you assess the results of the visit?

Khelil: The Cairo visit was positive at all levels, particularly as it was President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's first visit since he assumed power. This is the second official meeting between the two presidents. [passage omitted]

The talks were an opportunity to enhance cooperation between the two countries. Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi had visited Tunisia earlier, and that was an opportunity to sign a number of agreements. An understanding has now been reached on implementation of these agreements. There is a desire on both sides to raise the level of relations between the two countries and to begin a new phase. The two sides also thoroughly discussed Arab and African issues and the effects of international detente on the Arab situation.

AL-HAWADITH: We have heard that there is an inclination to keep some of the Arab League institutions in Tunis while the headquarters goes back to Cairo.

Khelil: We have heard of numerous proposals carried by the media. This is simply a matter for Arab decision and we support whatever the Arabs decide.

AL-HAWADITH: Would the decision have any negative effects on Egyptian-Tunisian relations?

Khelil: Our relations with Egypt are excellent and we want to keep them that way. The Arab decision cannot possibly have any negative effects on our ties with Cairo. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Do you not believe that the recent Libyan-Sudanese integration steps could adversely affect the Maghreb Union [UMA] which stipulates that consultations should be carried out with other members before participation in any such projects?

Khelil: We have no information on the details of the Libyan-Sudanese integration agreement. We will have to study the agreement to know whether or not there are any repercussions for the UMA.

AL-HAWADITH: Tunisia has made some endeavors to iron out some of the obstacles in Algerian-Moroccan relations. Have these efforts been successful?

Khelil: All we know is that an atmosphere of firm trust prevailed at the recent Tunis meeting of the UMA leaders. It was an opportunity for His Majesty King Hassan and President Chadli Bendjedid to hold several bilateral meetings. One result of these talks was that the Algerian-Moroccan Higher Joint Committee held its first meeting in Algiers, where the foreign ministers of the two countries went directly from Tunis. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: There is a call for an Arab summit conference to discuss the challenges currently facing the Arabs, such as Jewish immigration. What is Tunisia's position on these two matters—the need for an Arab summit conference and the immigration of Soviet Jews?

Khelil: All the Arabs are concerned about the immigration of Soviet Jews, particularly in view of the new dimensions this issue has assumed and the effects their settlement may have on the core of the Palestinian question. Presidents Mubarak and Zine El Abidine have expressed concern about these developments and have appealed to the international community to take a firm stand because of the negative effect of this matter on the efforts to promote a peaceful solution to the Palestinian question. We in Tunisia are open to the idea of an Arab summit conference and anything that would intensify inter-Arab consultation and dialogue, but we do not want a fruitless summit conference and we call for

sufficient good preparations for such a conference so that the results will be equal to the responsibility.

Morocco

Government Accepts Principle of Army Withdrawal

LD2803230690 Algiers Domestic Service in French
2200 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Western Sahara—Morocco accepts the principle of the withdrawal of its army. Bachir Mustapha Sayed, the official in charge of external relations of the Polisario Front, announced this during a news conference at the Sahrawi Embassy in Algiers. He gave other details. As far as Morocco is concerned, the number of soldiers to be withdrawn remains to be determined. As far as the United Nations is concerned, the minimum should remain while being left in barracks, but for the Sahrawis only a fifth of the force should remain. [passage omitted]

Perez de Cuellar Meets With Abdelaziz

LD2703230890 Algiers Domestic Service in French
2200 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] Western Sahara: United Nations Secretary General Perez de Cuellar had a meeting this afternoon with Mr Mohamed Abdelaziz, the president of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic [SADR]. There was also a meeting between United Nations representatives and a delegation of senior Saharan officials. It is known that Morocco and the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] Front have both accepted the United Nations plan on the question. They have yet to agree on the (?methods) and techniques of the organization of a referendum. The United Nations secretary general said after meeting the Polisario representatives that he noted an encouraging development in the Western Sahara dispute. This time I found a most favorable atmosphere, there is greater political willingness to see the referendum put into operation. Mr Perez de Cuellar told the press during his stop at the Polisario's camps. Furthermore, Perez de Cuellar is expected in Algiers tonight. Also questioned, the Saharan President, Mr Mohamed Abdelaziz, expressed the view that the Moroccan Government would no longer be opposed to a direct dialogue under the supervision of the United Nations to eliminate the obstacles hindering the application of the United Nations peace plan.

PDRY

Al-'Attas Greet Visiting Soviet Delegation

EA2803124190 *Aden Domestic Service in Arabic*
1900 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Today brother Haydar Abu-bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, received in his office at the premises of the Secretariat of the Presidium a Soviet delegation led by Saparmurad Niyazov, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet, chairman of the Turkmen SSR Supreme Soviet, and first secretary of the Turkmenistan Communist Party. He conveyed greetings from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and his best wishes for our people to achieve further successes and development.

Brother Abu-bakr al-'Attas welcomed the Soviet delegation, stressing our country's interest in developing our parliamentary relations with the USSR within the framework of friendship and cooperation.

There also was a review of parliamentary relations. They exchanged views on the situation and developments in the Arab and international arenas. The friendly Soviet delegation briefed the brother chairman of the Presidium on the progress of restructuring in the USSR, that is, perestroika. The delegation expressed happiness over its visit to our country, which is taking place during the current efforts of the two parts of the homeland to achieve Yemeni unity. It expressed high appreciation for the successes already achieved in that connection. It stressed the USSR always had been, and always would be, on the side of the Yemeni people, and that it would strengthen its relations with the state of Yemeni unity.

The brother chairman of the Presidium stressed our people have complete admiration and respect for the USSR, and they are proud of the relations of friendship and cooperation in various fields. He asked the delegation to convey his greetings to the Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, and the friendly Soviet people.

Qatar

Council of Ministers Condemns Senate Resolution

JN2903082390 *Manama WAKH in Arabic* 0550 GMT
29 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Doha, 28 Mar (WAKH)—The State of Qatar has condemned the passing by the U.S. Senate of a draft resolution acknowledging unified Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. It described this action as blatant defiance of the international will and said it would hamper peace efforts and add to the suffering of the Palestinian people.

This came during the ordinary weekly meeting of the Qatari Council of Ministers, held tonight under the

chairmanship of His Highness Shaykh Hamad Ibn-Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and minister of defense.

The Council expressed deep concern and indignation over the Senate's position.

The Council reiterated Qatar's firm position on the resolutions of the United Nations, the Arab League, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the Nonaligned Movement, which consider Israel's decision to annex Jerusalem as null and void.

The Qatari Council of Ministers appealed to the world community to assume its responsibility regarding this and to confront this flagrant defiance of international will. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

'Deep Anxiety' Expressed Over U.S., Jerusalem

LD2803213490 *Riyadh SPA in Arabic* 2005 GMT
28 Mar 90

[Text] Riyadh, 28 Mar (SPA)—The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has expressed its deep anxiety regarding the decision of the U.S. Senate considering the city of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

This was announced by a responsible source in a statement to SPA in which it said: "This resolution causes a great pain to the feelings of Muslims in various parts of the world, in addition to the fact it contradicts international laws and conventions that forbid the aggressor state to change the character of the occupied territories, which constitutes a violation of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people."

The source added: "This resolution contradicts the stance of the United States itself toward the UN resolutions concerning holy Jerusalem."

The responsible source affirmed the desire of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the U.S. Congress to refrain from following this decision, affirming its issuance at this time, when the U.S. Administration is trying to adopt dialogue with those concerned with the Palestinian cause, at the forefront of whom is the PLO, is considered to be an abortion of the peace process in the region.

At the end of the statement the source affirmed the rejection by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia of any decision likely to lead to the loss of the Palestinian people's rights, and which challenges the Islamic public opinion.

United Arab Emirates

'Arafat Makes Brief Stopover After India Visit

JN2903113990 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic
0930 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat made a 30-minute stopover at Abu Dhabi International Airport at dawn today on his way from New Delhi following an official visit to India. He was received and seen off at the airport by Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs; Foreign Ministry officials; and Khalid Malak, Palestinian ambassador to the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

During the stopover, the Palestinian president conveyed the warmest feelings of appreciation and cordiality to Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the state, and the government and people of the UAE. He paid tribute to the UAE's support for the Palestine question and its constant backing of the Palestinian intifadah. He also offered congratulations on the advent of the blessed month of Ramadan.

The Palestinian president called for an Arab summit as soon as possible and for an urgent Islamic meeting to confront the grave danger of Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine and the scheme of Greater Israel. He said Israel is seeking to implement this scheme as disclosed by a map printed by the Israeli enemy on a coin. The scheme, he said, threatens pan-Arab security and the future of Arab children.

In a statement to WAM, he explained the enemy map clearly points to Greater Israel, which they call the land of Israel from 'P : Nile to the Euphrates. This map includes all of Lebanon and Jordan, two-thirds of Syria, three-quarters of Iraq, one-third of Saudi Arabia up to Medina and Khaybar, and the Sinai peninsula.

'Arafat described the Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe to occupied Palestine as a demographic bomb through which the Israelis are trying to shift the balance of power and settle some 3 million immigrants during the next 10 years. He noted the Palestinian leadership has been moving on various levels to confront this danger. It has called for an open Security Council session and for a meeting of the Jerusalem Committee, which, he said, will meet on Thursday, 10 Ramadan [5 April] under the chairmanship of King Hassan II of Morocco. The Palestinian leadership, in addition, has appealed to the Soviet Union to reduce the emigration.

The Palestinian president stressed the blessed Palestinian intifadah in the occupied Arab territories will

continue wave after wave, despite Zionist coercion and persecution against the stone-throwing children and the Palestinian people, until the Israeli occupation is ended and the Palestinian flag is raised over Jerusalem, the capital of the state of Palestine. He also noted the constant contacts and coordination with Jordan. He expressed hope a confederation between Jordan and Palestine will be established in due course.

On Palestinian-Syrian relations, 'Arafat said talks are continuing between the two on many levels. He expressed optimism about the normalization as soon as possible of Syrian-Palestinian relations. On the Tubruq mini-summit among the leaders of Egypt, Syria, Libya, and Sudan, the Palestinian president stressed the Arab meetings are in the interest of a strong Arab position. The Palestinian president denied reports about the postponement of the PLO Central Council meeting, scheduled for Baghdad next week. He said the meeting will be held as scheduled.

Yemen Arab Republic

Council Denounces Senate Resolution on Jerusalem

JN2803210790 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers conducted its regularly scheduled meeting today under the chairmanship of brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister and General Committee member. [passage omitted]

The Council of Ministers denounced the U.S. Senate's resolution considering the city of Jerusalem the capital of the Zionist entity. The Council also said the decision constitutes a violation and infringement of international legitimacy and clashes with UN and Security Council resolutions. The decision also violates international law and contradicts the U.S. Administration's previous announcements and pledges concerning efforts to establish peace in the region and resolve the Palestine question in a just manner based on international legitimacy. [passage omitted]

Turkish State Minister Departs After Talks

JN2803123790 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Brother Turkish Minister of State Mehmet Kececiler left Sanaa this morning after a four-day visit to our country, during which he conducted talks with officials in the Ministries of Animal Resources, Agriculture, and Fisheries and Development, and in the central planning organ on how to bolster relations of bilateral cooperation in the various fields of economic development. [passage omitted]

UK 'Allegations' Denied; Arrests Protested

JN2903090290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0835 GMT
29 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Mar (INA)—A Foreign Ministry spokesman has categorically, chapter and verse, denied allegations contained in a statement by the British authorities yesterday. In a statement to INA, the spokesman expressed Iraq's indignation over the apprehension of an Iraqi employee working legitimately at the Iraqi Airways office in Britain. The spokesman held the British authorities responsible for the consequences of its measures. The spokesman stressed that Iraq reserves the right to take measures on the basis of reciprocal treatment. The spokesman said the allegations and measures fall within the tendentious campaign of slander that British authorities and media and Zionist circles have been launching against Iraq for some time with a view to endangering Iraq's security and preparing politically and through the media for an aggression against the country.

Foreign Ministry Protests to British Envoy

JN2903120290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT
29 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Mar (INA)—INA has learned that Nizar Hamdun, under secretary of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, has said the following to the British charge d'affaires in Baghdad in reply to the arrest of an Iraq Airways employee in London and a British Government statement on the subject:

Iraq has not violated the laws of Britain or any other country and it asserts its full right to transfer technology like other world nations. Regarding the campaign against what is termed Iraq's nuclear program, Iraq has accepted the Atomic Energy Agency's guarantees. It is also a signatory of the Anti-Proliferation Treaty. Britain must remember that with regard to this subject.

The under secretary also told the British charge d'affaires: The current British campaign seeks to provide the grounds for an Israeli aggression on Iraq, which reminds us of the year 1981 when a similar feverish propaganda campaign paved the way for the Israeli attack on Iraqi scientific installations. Therefore, Iraq is viewing this matter seriously and this British act will be construed on this basis.

The under secretary told the British charge d'affaires that in the matter of the spy Bazoft, it had been observed that the news about the special Iraqi-British diplomatic contacts had been published in the British media only a few hours after they had occurred, creating the conviction that the British Government had intentionally been leaking the news with the aim of harming Iraq.

It is unusual in Britain for secret talks with other governments to be leaked to the media within hours unless this leakage is done for a special purpose. An

instance is the leakage of the British Prime Minister's letter to the president and the proposed visit of Foreign Secretary Hurd.

When the British charge d'affaires spoke about the application of British law, the under secretary told him: You are talking of laws and these should have been taken into consideration in the Bazoft issue.

The British charge d'affaires said that a British businessman residing in London had been arrested for involvement in the matter. The British Foreign Office informed the Iraqi Embassy at noon on 28 March that the man would be deported from England but three hours later said that he was carrying a British passport. The Iraqi under secretary said that this confusing British behavior proves there had been no investigation of the issue for 18 months, as the British authorities claimed, because it was impossible for them not to have found out that he was carrying this kind of passport if there had been such an investigation.

Press Continues Denouncing Jerusalem Resolution

JN2803124390 Baghdad INA in English 1018 GMT
28 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, Mar 28, INA—Iraqi dailies have gone on denouncing the U.S. Senate resolution recognizing Arab al-Quds [Jerusalem] the capital of the Zionist entity. In lengthy articles published here today, the papers called for taking active and serious stance to counter impact of the biased American decision.

Defence Ministry daily AL-QADISIYAH urged the Arab countries to initiate a unified Arab attitude to face up the U.S. move. It said that unless indignation and condemnation were translated into a unified Arab decision, there would be nothing of use. The paper pointed out that the whole international community has expressed rejection to the U.S. Senate resolution that represented a blind support to the Zionist entity despite the latter's excessive crimes against the Palestinian people inside occupied lands.

AL-JUMHURIYAH daily of Baghdad described the American decision as suspicious and constituting a denial to both Arab and Palestinian rights, a challenge to feelings of the world community and obvious abuse of the international law and legitimacy. The paper underlined that al-Quds would remain Arab and that neither the American decisions nor the Zionist measures could affect its Arab identity or distort its history, being deeply rooted in Arab and Islamic civilization. It warned the United States against employing so-called policy of strategic alliance with the Zionist entity. This means that the U.S. is siding with the enemy against the Arabs, the paper said, adding that they could not hold friendship with those who were conspiring on their interests.

AL-THAWRAH daily emphasised that the U.S. Senate resolution considering al-Quds the capital of the Zionist entity was in divergence with all international legitimacy

resolutions concerning al-Quds and the occupied Arab lands at large. It added that the move unveiled how firm and developed the relations between the U.S. and the Zionist entity. It said the U.S. decision had outspokenly reflected influence of the Zionist lobby on the general American policy and especially the senators. The paper pointed out that the U.S. stance reminded with its previous similar attitudes that showed alignment to the Zionist entity at the expense of Arabs. AL-THAWRAH ridiculed the language of the Senate who claims false keenness on peace efforts and then they take a decision that threatens the explosion and ending the process of peace.

Paper Calls for Overcoming Arab Differences

JN2603112590 Baghdad INA in English 1100 GMT
26 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, Mar 26, INA—AL-QADISIYAH daily of Baghdad called for further dialogue, deliberations and rapprochement among the Arab countries with a view to reaching a unified and comprehensive evaluation aiming at consolidating the Arab rank and exceeding sub-differences for framing a unified political resolution.

In its article published today, the paper said that President Saddam Husayn and other Iraqi officials' visits to the Arab Cooperation Council Member states and the region's states were aiming at strengthening the issues of joint concern as well as their positive dimensions that associate with unveiling several important topics.

The paper added that Iraq has been playing a major positive role, since it was seriously and sincerely acting to maintain the soundness as strength of the Arab rank and endeavoring for thwarting conspiracies hatched by the imperialist and Zionist circles aimed at humiliating the Arab nation and undermining aspects of its deep-rooted and great civilization.

Iraq, by its principled realization of the Arab nation's issues, it completely receives the importance of terminating tension in the region, where it has been seeking at national and international levels to confirm the necessity of ending the existing tension in the region and putting an end to the state of no-war no-peace with Iran, calling it to respond to the logic of peace the paper asserted.

The paper added that, within the frame of Iraq's a pioneering role, it paid special attention and earlier warned against perils of the Jewish immigration to the occupied Arab territories, calling for decisively confronting it by all available means.

Iraq has also called for adopting a unified Arab stand to counter the present challenges that have never aimed at Palestine only on Jordan, but pose permanent danger and threat to the entire Arab security.

The paper stressed that recent visit paid by President Saddam Husayn to Saudi Arabia, came in line with Iraq's same goals and with the importance of the Iraqi role towards the coordination with the aim of taking a unified stance to tackle the emotive Arab issues.

Mauritanian Envoy Delivers Message to Saddam

JN2703123390 Baghdad INA in English 1210 GMT
27 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, Mar 27, INA—President Saddam Husayn received in audience today visiting Mauritanian Presidential Envoy and Minister of Foreign and Cooperation Affairs Cheikh Sid'Ahmed Ould Baba.

During the audience, Cheikh Ould Baba conveyed to President Husayn a message from Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya on bilateral relations.

Present at the meeting was Iraqi Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and the Mauritanian ambassador in Baghdad.

Departs 28 March

JN2803212590 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Major Cheikh Sid'Ahmed Ould Baba, Mauritanian minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, and personal envoy of Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Mauritanian Military Committee for National Salvation, to His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn, left Baghdad this evening.

During his visit to Iraq, the Mauritanian envoy conveyed an oral message from Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya to His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn on relations between the two fraternal countries.

Rabbi Schach Addresses Degel Hatora Convention

TA2903071390 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28
Mar 90 p A2

["Document" entitled "Rabbi Schach's Speech" delivered before the Degel Hatora convention in Ramat Gan on 26 March]

[Text] "Honorable teachers and rabbis, honored guests: In truth, I would like to tell you all I had no intention or design to speak before such a large public. I am amazed by the sight of this gathering, and I suffer from a fear of crowds. I thought to myself: What could I possibly have to add? But one thing gladdens me when I see this great thirst for words which strengthen the torah and religion, and I would like to make some true and honest statements, which do not stem from any political or other motives, but are just the simple truth.

"Gentlemen, we live in a terrible time; each day is worse than the previous one. All the wars and turmoil did not start today. This began as far back as World War I and has not died down to this very today, and only God knows what is yet to come. All the countries are getting stronger, each one with arms at the ready, and are continually increasing their power with more sophisticated weapons.

"But we, the people of Israel, are like one sheep among 70 wolves; however, there is something that should strengthen every Jew—wherever he may be—more than the most potent weapon, more than the greatest countries. The religiously observant Jew is a thousand times stronger than anything else. We have suffered exile after exile, persecution and extermination: Great nations have arisen against us to destroy us over thousands of years—and we have survived. With empty hands, without weapons. What is the secret of our existence? How can this miracle be explained?

"Only by this: that the Jew cannot be destroyed. You can kill him, but his sons will continue to observe the torah. As long as the Jew did not cut himself off from the tradition of his forefathers—for he is linked to the Tana'im [religious scholars from the third century AD] and all the righteous men and to Avraham, Yitzhaq, and Ya'aqov—he survived. The entire world may come to an end, but the Jew will live forever, as long as he adheres to the way of his fathers and does not look for truisms and foreign ideologies.

"What is the uniqueness of a Jew who studies truisms and foreign languages? After all, even the gentile knows these and is absorbed in them. But if the Jew does not know the meaning of the words in the siddur, what link does he have with his ancestors? Someone who has no ties may, God forbid, be lost; a nation that is not linked to its forefathers is destined to disappear; it shall have no remnant.

"One meets a child at school, and he tells you the teacher explained the verse: 'Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy' to him. As though it were something that belongs

to history and does not pertain to us today, God forbid. There are kibbutzim that do not know the meaning of Yom Kippur or what the sabbath and the miqve are. They raise pigs and rabbits. Do they have any ties to their forefathers? How will this generation have any future, if its fathers are seen eating on Yom Kippur?

"I was visited by two men from a kibbutz who had drawn closer to Judaism. They told me that up to a very advanced age, they had not known what Hear O Israel [Jewish confession of faith] was and had been afraid to enter a synagogue. Can this be called the Jewish people? These people have to be supported and their debts must be covered by paying taxes...If there is a war, how long will they fight? After all, other nations are stronger than them.

"The torah states the people of Israel became a nation even before they entered Eretz Yisra'el, when they made the covenant with the torah. Territory is not the main issue. Land can be seized during war, but the people can survive. By doing so it constitutes a nation. During the San Remo conference [international conference conducted in 1920 to determine the future of the defeated Ottoman empire] all of Eretz Yisra'el was given up, even Trans-Jordan. What were we left with? A few villages.

"With such a state of affairs, the only thing that can make us happy is when we perceive such thirst for God's word. Let us picture to ourselves a poor Jew, who struggles all week to make a living. He makes the rounds of all the villages, and on Friday he washes himself to honor the sabbath, goes home and sings 'Blessed be thou, angels of the firmament.' He is like a king, his wife a queen, and his sons are princes. Who is happier: that poor, destitute man, or the rich fellow who does not know where his sons and daughters go? These are simple truths, but they must be said.

"What makes me very happy is the fact I see there is a public that wants to hear God's word without politics. Some turn to the Alignment, while others turn to other directions. But what will they get from the Alignment? Is the Alignment a holy thing? They are the ones who cut themselves off from all our past, and who seek a new torah. If the sabbath and Yom Kippur are not observed, by what should a man be considered Jewish?

"Gentlemen, if we wish to grow stronger and get through the wars and difficult times, only the man who believes God is at his side is the happiest of men, because he knows he has a powerful father who will help him. We must dissociate ourselves from the parties that have nothing to do with Judaism. One is better and another is worse, but they are basically the same. They have disconnected themselves from their forefathers, and if a person has no past, then what is his lineage? Are the gentiles not undoubtedly stronger than us?

"Regarding the observation of the sabbath, the torah states the nations of the world will say: 'For that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples'. Even the gentiles understand. One must be a

wild and abnormal man not to believe in the Creator. Everything was placed here at mankind's disposal, air and water. Everything has been working in impeccable order for thousands of years. Does it all happen by itself? No, there is the Creator, who directs everything.

"Let us strengthen ourselves through torah and religious duty and set time apart for torah study. Everyone must set time aside each day, so that the day may not be wasted."

Role of Rabbi Schach, Degel Hatorah Analyzed

TA2803125990 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Mar 90 pp 1, 2

[By Asher Wallfish]

[Text] The founding conference of the Degel Hatorah party this week became a world media event even though the faction has only two Knesset members. That takes some explaining.

What do the words "Degel Hatorah" mean?

"The Tora flag." The fact that the name contains no political, economic, social, or national connotations suggests that Degel Hatorah represents a single religious group, functioning as a party.

How strong is it?

Running for the first time in the November 1988 elections, it won 34,279 votes, and was placed third from the bottom among the qualifying lists, somewhat above the Arab Democratic List and the Progressive List for Peace. It was thus the least important Jewish list.

In the first round of seat calculations, in which 18,563 votes were required per seat, Degel Hatorah got just one seat. In the second round, as the result of a surplus votes agreement between the two parties, Shas [Torah Observing Sephardim] helped Degel Hatorah get the second Knesset seat.

Who founded Degel Hatorah, and for what purpose?

Rabbi Eli'ezer Schach, the leading figure in the so-called "Lithuanian" branch of the ultra-Orthodox community, founded the party on the eve of the last elections, in order to compete with and weaken the veteran ultra-Orthodox party, Agudat Yisra'el.

Why should Schach want to do a thing like that?

For well over two centuries, the Ashkenazi Orthodox Jews who hail originally from Eastern Europe were split between Lithuanians who stressed an intellectual approach to observance, and Hassidim or pietists, originally centred in Poland, who stressed a more emotional approach. Lithuanians and Hassidim quarrelled bitterly and frequently.

Schach was one of the two top rabbis in Agudat Yisra'el until 1983, when he left that party's spiritual leadership,

the Council of Tora Sages, and formed his own council. His first serious blow to Agudat Yisra'el was to create Shas, an ultra-Orthodox party which makes its appeal to Sephardi voters.

Was the creation of Shas a grave blow to Agudat Yisra'el?

Shas took away more votes from other parties than from Aguda.

Did the creation of Degel Hatorah cause more damage?

Although Agudat Yisra'el lost many votes to Degel Hatorah, it won a lot more new voters, and emerged stronger in the present Knesset than in the previous Knesset.

How can that be explained?

Rabbi Schach's formation of two political parties under his patronage, one Sephardi and the other Ashkenazi, polarized the ultra-Orthodox community dramatically. His foes teamed up against the Lithuanian leader. A small party, Po'aley Aguda, merged with Agudat Yisra'el to stiffen it against Schach. The Habad hassidic movement, which was extremely hostile to him, mobilized all its members and sympathizers to vote Agudat Yisra'el.

How has Schach's enmity towards Agudat Yisra'el been expressed since the 1988 elections?

Most recently by the Lithuanian leader's reported orders to the two parties he founded, Shas and Degel Hatorah, not to emulate Agudat Yisra'el's cooperation with Alignment in the political crisis.

Did Rabbi Schach reiterate those orders publicly at the Degel Hatorah conference this week?

Not explicitly. He did not mention Shas or Degel Hatorah or any other party save the Alignment by name. Nor did he name a single political or religious leader. But his attack on the kibbutzim for abandoning tradition can be fairly interpreted as hostility towards the Alignment and towards those parties like Agudat Yisra'el who cooperate with the Alignment.

Why should the neutralization of two Degel Hatorah MKs [Knesset Members] by Rabbi Schach so impair the Alignment's prospects of forming a government?

The problem for the Alignment is Rabbi Schach's influence over the six-man Sephardi Shas faction, which knows it owes its very existence to Rabbi Schach. Shas's own religious leader, former Chief Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef, does not allow his followers to defy his Askenazi colleague.

Surely the fact that Rabbi Schach holds territory to be irrelevant to Jewish survival should put him in sympathy with the Alignment and other political elements seeking compromise solutions to the dispute with the Palestinians?

It would seem so superficially. But Rabbi Schach takes this belief to the extreme. For him, Tora and not statehood will continue to keep the Jewish people alive. His philosophy has often been called anti-Zionist, compared to the philosophy of other ultra-Orthodox leaders.

So how can Rabbi Schach favour the Likud, if he indeed does?

Agudat Yisra'el's foe is Rabbi Schach's friend.

Liberals for Elections if Unity Government Out

TA2803122390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1100 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Knesset member [MK] Pinhas Goldstein from the group of breakaway Liberals said he and his colleagues think the establishment of a national unity government is called for. Such a government would be headed by the man President Herzog tasks with the job. If the setting up of a national unity government proves impossible, the breakaway Liberals will support conducting early elections. He added that his colleagues had rejected the proposals raised during the meeting between Prime Minister Shamir and Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i this morning. MK Goldstein pointed out if Shim'on Peres invites the members of his faction to a meeting, they would accept.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1300 GMT on 28 March, in a report by the party affairs correspondent, adds that in the meeting conducted between Shamir and Moda'i, the latter demanded the prime minister impose a six-month-long moratorium on giving a reply to Baker, and in this period deal instead with economic and immigration issues. In Moda'i's opinion, however, he did not get a good enough reply.]

Rabin Rejects Liberals' Stand on Baker Response

TA2903055790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0400 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i met last night with Shim'on Peres. Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that today the Alignment negotiating team will meet with representatives of Agudat Yisra'el to reinforce their ability to withstand the pressures being exerted on them to withdraw their support for the Alignment.

Yitzhaq Rabin is not ready to guarantee the five breakaway Liberals—Minister Moda'i's men—slots on the party list in the next elections. Rabin told our political correspondent Arye Golan this is out of the question and that he also objects to making any concessions whatsoever regarding the promotion of the political initiative.

Shamir Says Electoral Reform Can Be Achieved

TA2803125190 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 28 Mar 90 p 1

[By diplomatic correspondent David Makovsky]

[Text] For the first time since his government fell, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday suggested that the premier be elected by a direct ballot, and said that electoral reform could be achieved if the Likud and Labour joined forces.

But he had no definite plans to meet with Labour on this issue, leading Labour sources to discount his challenge to them as a ploy.

At a press conference yesterday at Agritech '90, Shamir said: "Maybe now is the time to address the questions that have been raised about changing our electoral system, for example, having the prime minister be directly elected by the people."

"But to do that we need a decision of the Knesset. If the Alignment wants to reach some agreement, maybe we can succeed. Some changes are necessary, we would have to agree on which ones."

Subcommittee Inclined To Cancel VOA Project

TA2903095190 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0500 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] A subcommittee of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee is leaning toward recommending the Voice of America [VOA] project in the 'Arava be canceled. The subcommittee has completed its deliberations on the project and soon will publish its recommendations. Meanwhile, 64 Knesset members [MK's] have signed a petition to be sent to Washington demanding the project be canceled. Our Knesset affairs correspondent Dov Gilhar reports:

For many weeks the VOA project was scrutinized by the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Faced with a dilemma, its subcommittee scrutinized the weighty factors for and against the VOA transmitters. The bottom line was a general inclination toward recommending backing down from the transmit project in the Negev, despite the agreement already signed with the U.S. Administration that will benefit the State of Israel to the tune of \$150 million and provide southerners with some 150 jobs—a considerable bonus in these days of heavy unemployment.

On the other hand, the subcommittee had to consider some weighty factors, such as the reduction in training areas and damage to the environment. This is what MK Yehoshu'a Sagi, chairman of the subcommittee to review the IDF deployment in the Negev, had to say on the subject:

[Begin Sagi recording] The project will affect the Air Force flights; I believe this is beyond any doubt. Although protective countermeasures can be applied,

agreeing to these measures from the start would mean accepting limitations as an accomplished fact.

The other aspect is foreign relations, and the question is whether today, in the age of glasnost and perestroika, it is truly necessary to risk our relations with the Soviet Union over a project that is not a purely national Israeli one, but rather a service to the free world. We must take this into consideration, particularly with a view to the special sensitivity of the issue of aliyah from the Soviet Union. [end recording]

Sagi himself believes the project ought to be scrapped, and so do most of the subcommittee members. It should be stressed they have not yet made a final decision.

MK 'Uzi Landau meanwhile has collected the signatures of 64 MK's who are calling for canceling the project. Landau will send the signatures to environmentalist organizations in the U.S. in a bid to exploit their influence on Capitol Hill against the project.

Envoy Says Aliyah To Continue Through Hungary

TA2803191390 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Dr. Janos Gorog, Hungary's ambassador to Israel, today announced that flights carrying Soviet immigrants from Budapest to Israel will soon resume. Addressing a rally of friends of Bar-Ilan University, the ambassador said his government had authorized him to make this announcement; he refused to go into any further details, however, because according to him, several clauses still are pending agreement. Our correspondent Dan Raviv reports:

[Begin Gorog recording, in English] What I can say to you and to the press is that Mr. Govrin [Israeli Foreign Ministry's assistant director general for East Europe affairs] was received by State Secretary Laszlo Kovacs, and they had extensive talks for two days. They have resolved essentially the problem which has been created by the decision of Malev, which was an independent decision referring to security and which was not consulted with the government, neither with the Foreign Ministry.

So, as I have mentioned, they have worked out a solution. Other talks still are under way to iron out some details. But, as an ambassador, I have been instructed by my ministry not to go into details when I gave information about that in order what we have to do. [sentence as heard] It doesn't serve the purpose if we reveal those details, how and in what manner we will solve that problem. The main thing is the end result, and this is positive. The aliyah will continue through Hungary. This is what I can say at this moment. [applause] [end recording]

Cooperation Agreements Signed With Romania

TA2803143890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Israel and Romania have signed two agreements for cooperation in veterinary services and plant protection. Our correspondent Moti 'Amir reports that the agreements were signed by Minister Moda'i, who is in charge of the Agriculture Ministry; his Romanian counterpart, who is currently visiting Israel; and the ambassadors of both countries.

Ban on Ham Radio Ties With Arab States Lifted

TA2803102890 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Mar 90 p 1

[By Ben Lynfield]

[Excerpt] Israeli amateur radio operators received news over their radios last night that a longstanding Israeli government ban on conversing with counterparts in Arab countries has been lifted.

A Communications Ministry official recently notified the Israel Amateur Radio Club, which numbers over 600 members, that prohibitions on contact with Arab countries are no longer valid, club members told THE JERUSALEM POST last night.

Previously, Israeli radio operators could legally converse only with Egypt, and risked losing their licenses if they spoke with operators in other Arab countries, members said. [passage omitted]

Space Official: Ofeq-2 Launch 'Not Imminent'

TA2803124690 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Mar 90 p 2

[By Joshua Brilliant]

[Excerpts] Tel Aviv—The government is cutting back on funding for the Ofeq space satellite programme, but private industry is picking up at least some of the slack, a top Space Agency official told THE JERUSALEM POST yesterday.

Prof. Aqiva Bar-Nun, coordinator of the Israel Space Agency, would not say whether the contribution of private industry to the programme made up for the cuts, or whether the project was being delayed as a result of the government's decision.

But the decision appears to indicate that the defence establishment does not consider the project to be a high priority. [passage omitted]

Bar-Nun said the Ofeq 2 launch was not imminent. Scientists were "developing things, checking things," he added, and the satellite would be launched "eventually."

But he insisted that the project was "progressing well."

Bar-Nun said that industries were investing in the project in the hope that it would help them sell components that had proven themselves in space. Space industries throughout the world earn \$10 billion a year, THE POST was told.

Shomron: Army Ready for East Front 'Dangers'

TA2903090190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0405 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Chief of Staff Dan Shomron yesterday said although there is no eastern front and no Jordanian-Iraqi cooperation at present, future processes are liable to involve certain dangerous developments. The chief of staff was addressing high school students on the eve of recruitment, at a meeting organized by the Holon Municipality. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe was there:

[Begin recording] [Menashe] The Jordanian king fears riots and demonstrations resulting from the economic situation. Weakened by events inside his Kingdom, Husayn is inclined to cooperate both with terrorist organizations and with Iraq, said Lieutenant General Dan Shomron.

[Shomron] Fearing the threat against his regime, his Kingdom, and his family, he is more and more inclined to cooperate with the PLO terrorist organizations. In this cooperation, he makes a clear distinction between two separate facets: the border and Jordan itself. Although he keeps the border safe, he cooperates with these organizations inside Jordan, thereby potentially endangering Jordan and himself.

His weakness also has caused him to attempt to seek refuge under Iraq's military umbrella. He consequently launched cooperation with Iraq, which, as you know, now has a large and strong Army no longer busy with the Gulf war.

Therefore, although the eastern front does not exist at present and there is no full cooperation between Jordan and Iraq, the process is potentially dangerous for us. We are aware of the dangers, and we are making appropriate preparations. Naturally, I will not specify our plans here, but I would like to state we are investing a great deal in the Army and in the development of weapons and combat methods applicable to the future—all this to be able to face future threats, including possible strategic cooperation between Jordan and well-armed Iraq.

[Menashe] The chief of staff added that despite the events in East Europe, radicalization and Islamization are on the rise in the Middle East. Therefore, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] attaches supreme significance to being prepared for war. [end recording]

Infantry To Get New Antitank Rocket Launchers

TA2903060790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0400 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Infantry Corps soon will receive new antitank rocket launchers that were developed in Israel. The launchers are effective at a range of 400 meters and are capable of penetrating 40-cm armor.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that according to the IDF's new work plan, the Air Force will receive 18 Apache combat helicopters.

Jordanian Faces 'Armed Infiltration' Charge

JN2803113390 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World
0930 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] The two Jordanian infiltrators who were captured near the security fence in Ha'Arava last September had planned to carry out an operation against an Israeli military patrol. This was disclosed for the first time yesterday when the bill of indictment against one of the infiltrators, Jordanian Salah Ibrahim Ashgharin, 20, was submitted to the Beersheba Central Court. The Southern District public prosecutor charged the Jordanian infiltrator with committing the offense of armed infiltration into Israel. The maximum sentence for such an offense is 11 years.

Gaza Strip Under Land Day Curfew From 29 Mar

TA2803173290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1700 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] A general curfew will be imposed on the Gaza Strip as of 0400 [0100 GMT] tomorrow until further notice. The military government has decided to impose this curfew for fear of disturbances on Land Day [30 March]. Our correspondent adds only local residents will be allowed into the Gaza Strip. Reporters will be allowed in only under Army supervision.

8 Arabs Wounded in Incidents in Territories

TA2803134290 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
28 Mar 90 p.A2

[By Yizhar Be'er, Eytan Rabin, and ITIM]

[Excerpts] Palestinian sources reported that five residents were wounded in yesterday's incidents in the West Bank. Two Nabulus men aged 26 and 20 were injured when plastic bullets hit them in the leg and back respectively. A 15-year-old youth was hurt by a bullet fragment. [passage omitted]

According to Palestinian sources, the secretary of the Nabulus district settlement of Yitzhar yesterday fired a gun over pupils' heads in Nabulus near the local school of Huwwarah. The sources claimed that last Monday, the secretary's car had been stoned in the same area. The

Yitzhar secretariat denied the alleged involvement of its member in an incident near Huwwarah.

A procession of some 200 women and female students belonging to a women's organization marched through Nablus yesterday carrying Palestinian flags and placards. In Yamun, northwest of Janin, residents declared a tax strike. The security forces yesterday closed down a high school in Tuqu' near Bethlehem in the wake of violent events staged by students.

Leaflet No. 55 of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, was disseminated yesterday in the West Bank. The leaflet attacks Israeli political parties, stating that even if the next government is formed by the Alignment, it will be a shaky government that will accord the absorption of Jewish immigrants first priority and will place the chief rabbis in senior positions.

The leaflet attacks the prominent notables who met with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, saying they have helped him revive the Camp David accords, which do not represent the Palestinian people. The leaflet announces that the month of Ramadan will be devoted

to jihad, and praises the stance of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP]. [passage omitted]

According to Palestinian sources, three Arab residents were wounded in disturbances in the Gaza Strip yesterday. A representative of the Army spokesman in the Southern Command reported local disturbances, but noted no casualties were recorded. He added trade and studies were conducted normally.

At 0815 yesterday, two molotov cocktails were hurled on the new Ma'ale Adummim-Jerusalem highway, a few kilometers east of the French Hill junction. The bottles ignited but caused no damage.

[In an ITIM report on page 7, HA'ARETZ adds: "The Lod military court yesterday sentenced terrorist Nimr Sha'ban al-Safadi, 26, of Abu-Tor, Jerusalem, to 21 years in prison. For more than two years, the man was one of the most prominent commanders of a squad operating on behalf of the PFLP. The defendant pleaded guilty to 26 charges, including inflicting bodily harm, an attack on the British Consulate building in East Jerusalem, the torching of Hanna Sinyurah's car, and other acts."]

PLO's 'Abd-Rabbuh Comments on U.S. Resolution

*JN2803165090 Amman Domestic Service in English
1207 GMT 28 Mar 90*

[Interview with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee and head of the PLO Information Department, by Cathy Qaqish, carried within the "Jordan Weekly" program, place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Qaqish] In an interview with "Jordan Weekly", Mr. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO's Executive Committee and head of the PLO's Information Department, commented on the negative impact of the U.S. Senate Resolution. Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh was in Jordan to head the PLO's delegation to the first-ever dialogue between Jordan and the PLO on cooperation and coordination in the field of information. The dialogue was initiated by Jordan through an invitation by the Minister of Information Mr. 'Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din. I asked Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh to first tell us more about the purpose of the Jordanian-PLO information meetings.

['Abd-Rabbuh] This visit is part of the continuous cooperation between the PLO and the Jordanian Government in various fields, including the field of information. And we have of course begun to deal with various issues of common interest between Jordan and PLO. The main issue of course is the support of the Palestinian struggle for self-determination and independence, the struggle of the intifadah. And here we have discussed various practical matters, including the support of the intifadah in the field of education, for example, and the role of the mass media in Jordan in this field and in other fields. Of course, also we have discussed issues related to the problem of emigration which is a real problem. And it represents in fact an obstacle now facing the political settlement in the region. We need more common action between Jordan and the PLO to show the international public opinion the dangers that this emigration represents in blocking the way in front of a just peace in the region.

[Qaqish] Of course the Soviet Jewish emigration now is a very important issue in the sense that it could hinder the peace process that the world is now calling for. So, what do you feel should be done more to bring world attention to the serious implications of the Soviet Jewish emigration to Palestine? And in particular, what should the Arab states do?

['Abd-Rabbuh] Well, there should be a joint Arab role, whether in the United Nations and the Security Council or through direct contacts with the superpowers—the United States and the Soviet Union—in order to find a solution to this problem. Another field of Arab role in this direction is to try to show the international public opinion that the continuation of this emigration might lead the region into a new explosion. It will not only block the way in front of peace, but it will lead to confrontations and escalation of tension in this region, especially in a stage where all the world is moving toward

detente and toward solving the various conflicts, including the regional conflicts. And we have seen that many of these regional conflicts were solved or are on their way to be solved. So, the Middle East with this emigration might represent a danger against the whole international trend towards peace and cooperation. And this is a role which we need, all the Arab states need to play in various fields and with various countries.

[Qaqish] Still within the context of the peace process, we understand that last Thursday, the U.S. Senate has passed Resolution No. 106, which describes Jerusalem as the undivided capital of Israel. Do you feel that this would hinder in a way the peace process?

['Abd-Rabbuh] This is very negative. It is a very negative resolution. It will support only and it will help only those forces inside Israel who want to continue the occupation and expansion and who want to [changes thought] who search for a new confrontation in the Middle East. And this contradicts what the administration itself had declared, including U.S. President Bush two weeks ago. We believe that this will affect the role of the United States itself, the role which the administration had sought to play, the balanced role to find a possibility of beginning a political settlement, a possibility of a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. This will endanger the whole process which this Administration had begun since, which this administration began more than one year now. And it undermines in fact all the international efforts. And we know that all these efforts were based on the resolutions of the Security Council and the United Nations which consider Jerusalem as a part of the occupied territories since 1967.

[Qaqish] One last question, where does the peace process now stand at? I understand that there are negotiations currently taking place between the U.S. ambassador to Tunisia and the PLO.

['Abd-Rabbuh] Well, it is a channel. But it is not the only channel. There are contacts on various levels with different circles and forces not only in the United States. But, I can say that even some Israeli political forces are trying to contact the PLO. I would remind here with the statement that Shim'on Peres had said before or at the beginning of the crisis in the Israeli Government when he said that we cannot ignore the fact that for more than one year now, the United States, Egypt, and even Israel was indirectly dealing with the PLO. So why to hide behind our finger? I think that this statement needs a real political conclusion by Shim'on Peres himself and by other political forces inside Israel. The only option now is not the option of Shamir, but the option of peace, of dialogue, and the option of the international conference with the participation of all parties including PLO and on the basis of the international resolutions.

[Qaqish] So, based on all this, where does the step following the fall of the Israeli Government come in here?

[Abd-Rabbuh] Well, if there will be a new government or if there will be new elections, the question is, whether the new government or any other government that will come after the elections, is not the formation of the government or who leads this government. The question is what is the political program of this government? Will this government adopt the option of just and balanced peace in the Middle East or not? We have extended our hands and our Palestinian peace initiative is quite clear. We seek to reach a political settlement based on the balance of interests; and the balance of interests means two states on the basis of the international resolutions. And this can open a new stage in this area and a new field of real cooperation, I can say, and this will end of course the decades of hostility.

Meets With Prime Minister

JN2803173290 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic
1440 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Amman, 28 Mar (PETRA)—Prime Minister Mudar Badran received at noon today Mr. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the Information Department. Present was Information Minister Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din.

During the meeting, they discussed the various aspects of coordination and cooperation between Jordan and the PLO, especially concerning the dangers of Jewish immigration to Palestine and means of strengthening joint Arab action to confront these dangers and support the blessed intifadah of our people in the occupied territories by all ways and means. The meeting also dealt with efforts being made on the international level to realize a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestine question and establish peace and stability in the Middle East region.

The meeting was attended by the State of Palestine ambassador in Jordan.

King Exchanges Views With PLO's Abu-Sharif

JN2803180590 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Amman—King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, head of the state of Palestine. Abu-Sharif conveyed the greetings of the Palestinian leadership and the appreciation of the Palestinian Arab people to his majesty and the Jordanian people for their continued support for the Palestinian struggle in pursuance of their legitimate rights. His majesty was briefed by Abu-Sharif on the latest developments pertaining to the Palestine question. His majesty briefed Abu-Sharif on Jordan's assessment of the Arab situation, developments in the international arena, and the importance of an active Arab move at the current stage to crystallize a unified pan-Arab policy.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, and his majesty the king's political adviser.

PLO's Qaddumi To Visit Jordan for Talks

JN2703095790 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
27 Mar 90 pp 1, 19

[By Nabil 'Amr]

[Text] Amman—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, will arrive in Amman within the next few days for talks with Jordanian officials on the means of bolstering common Jordanian-Palestinian moves to have an urgent Arab summit and to confront the dangers threatening Arab national security, especially Soviet, East European, and Ethiopian Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine.

An official Palestinian source has told AL-DUSTUR that the next phase will witness closer coordination between Jordan and the PLO on the basis of common objectives, destiny, and dangers, as well as the distinctive relationship between the two fraternal peoples.

The source added that the current Jordanian-Palestinian meetings and those to be held at the highest levels in the future entail discussion of very important political issues related to the peace process in the region and its potential developments in light of the insincere U.S. attitude toward this process, developments within the enemy entity, and Israel's hostile plans to create tension and new arenas of conflict in the region.

The source said that the Jordanian and Palestinian sides are faced with the main task of finding new methods to back and enhance the blessed intifadah in the occupied territories and also to bolster Jordan's steadfastness against the continuous Israeli threats. This can be done by arriving at a common Arab concept of the dangers threatening the Arab nation.

Paper Views Pressure of 'Zionist Lobby' on U.S.

JN2903102890 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
29 Mar 90 First Edition pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "The Question Is To Be or Not To Be"]

[Text] We do not absolutely rule out the possibility that the Zionist lobby in the United States is exploiting its centers of powers to strangle the new policy of the Bush administration, which shows a better understanding of and is more responsive to the crisis in our region than any previous administration.

We have always said that the dispute in the region is not an Arab-Israeli conflict as much as it is a U.S.-Israeli conflict over spheres of influence in the Middle East. We are very sorry to say that, but these are the facts and we cannot but state them and make them public.

At a time when President Bush tries to assert the official U.S. stand of several years concerning Jerusalem and the

Zionist settlements, the U.S. Senate, which is dominated by the Democratic majority, decides to consider Jerusalem as the unified capital of Israel.

When President Bush reiterated his statements and refused to budge, the U.S. Congress decided to back the settlement programs for Soviet Jewish immigrants by a sum of \$400 million taken from the U.S. Treasury at the expense of the American taxpayer.

When the Arabs created a big uproar over the Jewish immigration and settlement issue, Carter came to the region and gave his support to President Bush in rejecting plans to settle Jewish immigrants in the occupied Arab territories.

Naturally, it is useful for the cause to find a supporter like former U.S. President Carter, who dealt a blow to joint Arab action, divided the Arab states, and gave Israel the power to open the Lebanese hell, strike at the Iraqi nuclear reactor, and diminish the Arab role to an unprecedented level!

It is also useful for this Carter to be a Democrat while his party representatives in the Senate consider Jerusalem the unified capital of Israel and his party representatives in Congress appropriate \$400 million for Jewish settlement in occupied Arab Palestine.

We do not know if what is taking place in the world today concerning Soviet Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine will stop this immigration, despite our full conviction that this is impossible. However, we are certain that the region is proceeding toward a conflagration whether we like it or not.

The issue is not whether Jewish immigrants should settle on the part of Palestine occupied in 1948 or the part occupied in 1967—the issue at stake here is too important from the pan-Arab viewpoint to be tackled so lightly and superficially—the issue is the Palestine question and the Palestine question is one of to be or not to be!!

'Discrepancies' Seen in Soviet Stand on Immigration

JN2903104990 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
29 Mar 90 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "The Jewish Immigration and the Soviet Complaint"]

[Text] Whether the Security Council has ended its futile debate on the settlement of Jewish immigrants in the occupied territories or not, it is clear in advance that the celebrations have had no effect either on the continuation of immigration or on Israel's settlement options.

It is perhaps useful to remember that the Security Council session came about on a request from the USSR, a permanent member of the Security Council that hardly ever goes to this forum to either complain against other nations or to present views on issues of concern to the Soviet state.

Undoubtedly, the Soviet position on Jewish immigration has always been characterized by amazing discrepancies. Moscow allowed the mass exodus of its Jewish citizens under the slogan of human rights and then lodged a complaint with the Security Council against the settlement of these Jews in the occupied territories without associating this with any stand that would give the declared Soviet policy some credibility.

Through its complaint to the Security Council against Israel, Moscow appeared as though innocent in the issue. But it is now evident the issue was a major deal between the United States and the USSR, whereby the former provided abundance of money and the latter provided a flood of immigrants—all at the expense of a small defenseless people shedding their blood every day to attain the most fundamental of their legitimate rights.

The intermittent debate and the meetings held at wide intervals of time by the Security Council to discuss the settlement of Jewish immigrants in the occupied territories indicate beyond any doubt that the Soviet complaint is not serious. Indeed, they prove that the question is nothing more than a Soviet attempt to absorb emerging Arab anger at the position of the great historical friend. The weakness shown by this friend, through its complaint, is greater than its eagerness to show good intentions, good faith, and sincerity toward the future of the occupied Arab territories.

Columnist on 'Deceptive' Soviet Moves on Emigration

JN2903111890 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
29 Mar 90 p 22

["Every Day" column by Tariq Masarwah: "Lies, Security Council, and Vienna Agreements"]

[Text] We marvel at these joint U.S.-Soviet lies as we follow the UN Security Council discussion of Jewish emigration. While the Americans have not been surprised by the settlement of the Jewish immigrants in the occupied territory, the Soviets have not really deplored the repercussions the Jewish emigration will have on the Palestinians' human rights. Both Washington and Moscow are aware that the Tel Aviv government fully agrees that the occupied territory is called the "land of Israel." Both know that the Israeli settlements are a firm Israeli policy and that there is an Israeli consensus that a political solution does not allow for anything called withdrawal.

As we follow the discussions in the UN Security Council's second session, we recall the final statement of the Vienna conference held from 4 November 1986 to 17 January 1989 [dates as published] and marvel at the lying power of Washington and Moscow. The two nations reached agreement in that overt statement, particularly in a chapter entitled "Security and Cooperation Issues in the Mediterranean," which shows that what is going on now was agreed upon. While Jewish emigration, which had been a firm U.S. policy since the Helsinki Declaration of 1 August 1985, was imposed on the

USSR, the latter did not regard the Palestinian people's rights as a firm policy on which any bartering could take place.

The deceptive Soviet utterances on the Soviet Union's commitment to the UN Charter are true in form but have devious aims. What about the UN Charter's stipulation that the Palestinian people have the right to their homeland? If the Soviets are really serious, why do they not invoke the article providing that "every individual must have the freedom to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country of origin?" Has the Palestinian not the right to return to his country?

We are aware that serious issues between Moscow and Washington—issues on which there is agreement—are not presented to the Security Council. Moscow's enthusiasm in referring the Jewish emigration issue to the Security Council is no more than a naive means of distracting the attention of the Arabs and the international community. Therefore, let Moscow stop the Jewish emigration and demand that Washington, in accordance with the Vienna agreement, accept the Palestinians' return to their homeland as a precondition for the resumption of Jewish emigration. Let Moscow

demand that Washington accept the article that says "the participating countries will ensure that the ethnic and cultural minorities in their homelands will have the same rights as other citizens." The Palestinians in the Galilee and the Triangle are now on an indefinite strike demanding their rights, which Israel is denying them because they are Palestinians.

We regret to see Moscow retreating to this extent. We are not allies and we are perhaps not friends, but Moscow should tell us that.

Correction to PLO Envoy Here for Information

WA2903165790

The following correction pertains to the item entitled "Meets Interior, Information Ministers" under the headline "PLO Envoy Here for Information Cooperation Talks," published in the 28 March Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 21: Column one, third paragraph, last sentence to fourth paragraph, first sentence, make read: ...in the region. [new paragraph] Culture Minister Khalid al-Karaki.... (correcting title)

Mahmud Rafsanjani on Visit To Discuss Hostages

NC2903065990 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 0545 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] According to press reports, Mahmud Rafsanjani, brother of the Iranian president, visited Lebanon a few days ago and met with a number of Hizballah and Amal leaders and Husayn al-Musawi, leader of the Islamic Amal Movement. The aim of the visit was part of the Iranian president's efforts to secure release of the hostages held in Lebanon.

Clashes, Shelling Reported in Eastern Areas

NC2903060690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] The sound of heavy artillery began to reverberate in the eastern area in the early hours of this morning. Several heavy artillery shells fell in the patriarchate seat vicinity in Bkirki.

Artillery shells are falling on the combat lines in al-Nas, Bikfayya, al-Qaysariyah, al-Qulay'at, 'Ayn Turah, and Bqa'tutah in Kasrawan.

Meanwhile, clashes and intense sniper fire are continuing on Beirut's combat lines extending from Sinn al-Fil to Galerie al-Ittihad in al-Dawrah. Security sources reported from East Beirut that both parties have brought in new human and military reinforcements to the combat lines.

Further on Security Violation 29 Mar

NC2903062490 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio
in Arabic 0600 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Since 0600 today, the army units and residential areas in Salome have been subjected to RPG and mortar fire originating from the opposing positions manned by Lebanese Forces members. Also, the areas of al-Qulay'at and Bikfayya are being bombarded by the Lebanese Forces' emplacements in Kasrawan.

'Awn Areas Reportedly Shelled by Lebanese Forces

NC2903072290 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio
in Arabic 0620 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] We have just been informed that residential areas in Antilyas and al-Dubayyah are currently coming under concentrated shelling from the Lebanese Forces' artillery emplacements. Security sources warn the citizens that the Antilyas-al-Dubayyah road is hazardous.

'Awn Forces Shell Lebanese Forces Positions

NC2903072890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0615 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] At 0630 today, General 'Awn's army units in Zabbugha, al-Na's in Bikfayya, and al-Qaysariyah opened artillery fire at the Lebanese Forces' positions in

central Kasrawan. The Kasrawan coast, the vicinity of Bkirki, the area of al-Qulay'at, Bqa'tuta, and 'Ajaltun have also been shelled.

The fringes of al-Ashrafiyah were subjected to sniper and rocket fire last night and very early this morning.

The Lebanese Forces' positions at the Museum and its vicinity have come under sniper fire. The Lebanese Forces' positions in al-Jisr al-Wati also came under sniper and RPF-7 fire.

The al-'Inayah church in al-Dawrah came under medium-caliber weapons fire from the General 'Awn's army positions in the Greek cold storage warehouse.

The fringes of al-Ashrafiyah came under intermittent RPG-7 attacks last night.

Army Units Shelling 'Residential Areas'

NC2903114590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1115 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] General 'Awn's army units have been directing intermittent mortar fire at residential areas in Sasin, al-Nasirah, and al-Barjawi in al-Ashrafiyah for half an hour now.

The heavy artillery bombardment of residential areas in Kasrawan by Gen. 'Awn's army units caused a fire in Salmun building in al-Qassis area in Balluni.

REUTER said hundreds of shells fell in the eastern areas, especially in Kasrawan.

Intermittent Sniper, Rocket Fire in E. Beirut

NC2803204490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
2015 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] The newly created combat lines in East Beirut are the scene of intermittent sniper and rocket fire, directed particularly at Lebanese Forces positions and residential neighborhoods. Five artillery shells fell in the Hotel Dieu area a short while ago.

Ja'ja' Proposes Dialogue With Al-Hirawi, 'Awn

NC2803173490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon
in Arabic 1515 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' has proposed a dialogue between General 'Awn and al-Hirawi, with his participation. He said: I am not calling on Gen. 'Awn to accept the al-Ta'if accord but to hold a dialogue with al-Hirawi. I cannot see how we can amend or abolish that accord militarily. He reiterated his assertion that a dialogue must be held with al-Hirawi. Ja'ja' noted that 'Awn rejects everything, but nothing is impossible and, eventually, he will be convinced of this because he cannot pursue his present course.

Ja'ja' questioned Gen. 'Awn's ability to carry on at a time when no one, not even Lebanese expatriates, is

providing him with any funds. Ja'ja' said that the first thing to do is to get al-Hirawi out of Syrian hands. He said: We are ready to withdraw from Beirut in favor of al-Hirawi's legitimacy provided that we receive sufficient guarantees that all parties will follow suit. He said that Gen. 'Awn's strategy will lead nowhere for two reasons: First, al-Hirawi enjoys international recognition and, second, he controls the Central Bank.

Ja'ja' pointed out that Gen. 'Awn hopes first to achieve a settlement for the armed dispute with the Lebanese Forces, and then to resume his policy of rejection of the al-Ta'if accord. He went on to say that the Lebanese Forces refuse to settle for an internal Christian settlement because they do not wish to go back to square one following the disaster. He said: Unfortunately we have made no progress and Gen. 'Awn adheres to his theory. Ja'ja' noted that the conflict with Gen. 'Awn can only be resolved within the framework of a comprehensive solution to the Lebanese crisis. He stressed that a military settlement is not a solution and the military balance allows the Lebanese Forces to maintain a defensive position. He said that the Lebanese Army cannot remove them from their positions.

Ja'ja' stated: If we succeed in achieving an internal Christian settlement, we will solve nothing. We will only return to the war between the two governments and to a deadend.

Further on Front Statement on Killing

NC2803185590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Excerpts] A group from the Lebanese National Resistance Front [LNRF] yesterday evening executed William Bell Robinson, a U.S. national of Jewish origin, in the Rashayya al-Fukhkhar public school. [passage omitted]

In a statement on the operation, the LNRF said: The negligence of international circles and quarters toward the serious schemes concocted by Israel to Judaize the occupied Arab territories and to consolidate settlement activities with a view to negating the Arabs' rights to their lands has led the LNRF directly to confront this Israeli plan. This plan is being implemented in different ways—by direct military occupation, use of Lebanese agents, and by bringing Zionist elements of various nationalities, hiding behind false humanitarian goals, as in the case of U.S. Zionist Robinson, who entered Lebanese territory with the first Israeli incursion in 1978. At the time, he tried to set up international radio and television ventures. He recently shifted his activities to other spheres in Rashayya al-Fukhkhar, where he seized Lebanese land as a prelude to setting up an Israeli settlement in the area.

Not for a single day has the LNRF failed to notice this suspicious activity, striking at these ventures one after another. It destroyed the radio station which was run by this Zionist agent himself. It also attacked Middle East Television, which Robinson had helped set up and

operate. Yesterday, Tuesday evening, 27 March, the LNRF heroes from the group of Heroine Martyr Lula 'Abbud-al-Rumaylah Martyrs unit, succeeded in entering his place of residence and carried out the death sentence against this Zionist, after having liquidated the guards assigned to protect him.

The LNRF stresses that this will be the fate of all those involved in carrying out annexation, settlement, and Judaization schemes. On this occasion, the LNRF emphasizes that it will remain the reliable shield defending our land and kinsmen in the occupied territories, and it calls upon our people to cling tightly to their land and stand fast in the face of the Israeli occupation and its agents. It promises them that it will punish any hand trying to oppress them and occupy their territories.

While facing up to the schemes of the Zionist occupation on our land, the LNRF addresses revolutionary greetings of gratitude and admiration to the stone-throwing heroes of the intifadah in the West Bank and Gaza, promising them to continue the common battle against the oppressive Zionist schemes against our people and Arab nation.

Resistance Attacks Lahd Positions

NC2803125990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] At dawn today resistance men attacked two agent Lahd militia positions in Shwayya, north of Hasbayya city, and along the Zumrayya crossing. The resistance men used 104-mm Katyusha rockets in the attack. The Fatah Uprising Movement claimed responsibility for the two attacks which were launched for Earth Day, which falls on Friday.

The Israeli occupation forces used tank and mortar fire to shell the vicinity of the al-Kfayr, Marj Zuhur, and 'Ayn Bujur villages causing considerable damage to the fields.

Fadlallah on Al-Ta'if Agreement, U.S. Designs

NC2603155990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah said that what happened in the eastern area was inevitable because of the ambitions of the two conflicting forces and the nature of the complexities that exist in the Christian community. He noted that the problem persists, and a new round of violence is expected in the eastern area.

In an interview with AL-SHARQ newspaper today, Fadlallah pointed out that the United States is orchestrating an international policy to maintain the conflict in Lebanon in preparation for a Lebanese future agreeable to the United States to serve its interests in the new international reality.

Fadlallah maintained that the talk about the Syrian Army's intervention in the eastern area shows a lack of

knowledge of President al-Asad's strategy. He affirmed that the Syrian Army is not a tool to be used by those who have political ambitions at home and abroad. He expressed the view that the stand taken by Syria was balanced and reasonable.

Regarding the al-Ta'if agreement, Fadlallah said that the supporters and opposition of the agreement agree that it has not fulfilled their expectations. It did not match the sacrifices offered by the Lebanese people in order to achieve a change that would realize the major objectives of the Lebanese people at home and in the region. For this reason, Fadlallah added, we have noticed that those who raised a clamor about the al-Ta'if agreement thought that it is the product of the traditional Lebanese political posture and perhaps was worse than the 1943 formula, because that formula did not earmark the presidency to the Maronites. This was done on the basis of a political custom. The al-Ta'if agreement, however, consecrated this.

Fadlallah explained that the al-Ta'if agreement addresses undecisively the issue of eliminating political sectarianism. He said: The al-Ta'if agreement was to extricate Lebanon from its constitutional crisis and to make Lebanon a unified state in form. However, it kept Lebanon under the mercy of the international plan, particularly the American one, which works toward greater disintegration and the wasting of time until solutions are found for the Middle East crisis.

Regarding the Vatican, Fadlallah said that it regards Lebanon as a miniature Middle Eastern Vatican. Therefore, it is working with all its power to prevent the establishment of any Arab or Islamic influence in Lebanon. It wants Lebanon to be the country that represents the religious and political Christian movement. The Vatican is trying to safeguard some of the positions which Christianity may have lost as a result of the recent developments, including the al-Ta'if agreement.

'Awn on Developments in Eastern Area

NC2603163590 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] Former Army commander Michel 'Awn has said that whoever wants a comprehensive solution to the Lebanese crisis means he does not want a solution, because such a solution depends on a comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem.

'Awn called on the mediation committee to name the party that violates the cease-fire. He said: Everyone knows from which direction the shells are fired and in which direction they go. The more damaging shelling was the one yesterday against the Antilyas bridge. Conflagrations take place unexpectedly, he said.

'Awn added that he supports Patriarch Sfayr's call to the people to rise up, and said he will march behind the patriarch. He renewed his call for parliamentary elections under UN auspices.

Asked about the surprise to which he hinted recently, 'Awn said that the surprise has hundreds of forms.

Sa'adah Comments on Situation in Eastern Area

NC2603082490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Excerpts] In a telephone call to Al-DIYAR last night, Phalangist Party leader Dr. George Sa'adah said that he will return to the eastern area soon. [passage omitted]

When asked for his opinion on what is happening in the eastern area, Dr. Sa'adah said: The situation in the eastern area is tragic. We are ashamed of what is happening in Lebanon because there is absolutely no justification for the ruination and destruction of our areas and people.

Giving his opinion on a solution, Sa'adah said: There can be no solution if we do not help the legitimate authority to impose its power everywhere in Lebanon. It is only through legitimacy that we will be able to end the situation with which we are grappling. We must learn from past mistakes. Legitimate institutions must resume their normal roles.

Regarding the al-Ta'if agreement and its implementation, Sa'adah said: We believed that implementing the al-Ta'if agreement would lead to Lebanon's deliverance. Comparing what the results of the al-Ta'if agreement would have been if it had been implemented to what they are as a result of obstructing its implementation clearly demonstrates what we were seeking.

Asked if he will back down on resigning from the government, Sa'adah said: Events have overtaken this issue. I have already resigned, otherwise there would have been no justification for my being outside the government. He emphasized that he will not withdraw the resignation. [passage omitted]

2 Killed in Security Incident in Tripoli 26 Mar

NC2603153190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] A security incident took place near the Roxy movie theater in Tripoli at 1000 today, leaving two people dead, one a corporal in the internal security forces. It happened when a traffic police detachment attempted to tow away a car for violating traffic regulations. Ahmad 'Abd-al-Halim Jamil Musa confronted the police detachment and fired at two members, shooting Cpl. Malik Shutayni from 'Akkar in his stomach. He died on his way to the hospital. He also shot Sergeant Mahmud Subhiyah in the jaw, who was taken to the hospital for treatment. The other members of the police detachment opened fire at the assailant, killing him instantly.

U.S. Resolution Said To Encourage Occupation*JN2903061090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0515 GMT 29 Mar 90*

[Text] An official source has stated the following: At a time when a world consensus has emerged on opposing the settlement of immigrant Soviet Jews in the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, the U.S. Senate has come up with an arbitrary, unprecedented resolution acknowledging Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

Coming as it does from the most prominent U.S. legislative body, this resolution constitutes a painful blow to all democratic values in the world, as it conflicts with the provisions of international law, the norms of human rights, and the resolutions of the UN that enjoy the support of the entire world, including the United States itself.

The Senate resolution, furthermore, is fully biased toward Israel, is a flagrant violation of the rights of the Palestinian Arab people, and is in defiance of the feelings of Arabs and Muslims. At the same time, the resolution is a reward for Israel for its rejection of peace and an encouragement to continue its occupation of the Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and the settlement of immigrant Jews therein.

The first serious consequence of the Senate resolution appeared today with the adoption by the Israeli Knesset of a resolution maintaining holy Jerusalem and the Syrian Golan Heights under Israeli sovereignty. The Syrian Arab Republic strongly denounces and condemns this resolution and warns against its dire consequences on the region's security and stability. It calls on Arab and Islamic countries to show full solidarity in condemning this infamous resolution and demanding its abrogation.

DPRK Vice President Arrives, Makes Statement*JN2803184690 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1600 GMT
28 Mar 90*

[Text] Damascus, 28 Mar (SANA)—Mr. Yi Chong-ok, DPRK vice president and member of the Korean Workers' Party Political Bureau, arrived in Damascus today on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

Heading those receiving Mr. Yi at Damascus International Airport was Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. They walked to the honor dais while the national anthems of the DPRK and Syria were played and then they inspected the guard of honor.

Mr. Yi made a statement on arrival in which he praised the friendship, cooperation, and warm relations which bind the two parties and peoples in the two friendly countries. These relations are based on the firm grounds of the very sincere personal friendship between Presidents Kim Il-song and Hafiz al-Asad.

He said that the friendship which binds the two countries is very old and strong, despite the geographic

distance between them. He added: Our delegation comes here carrying the feelings of love and cordiality our people have for your people since they are both fighting a joint struggle in a united front against Zionist imperialism.

He said the aim of his visit to Damascus is to hold talks with the officials in Syria concerning developing and strengthening relations between the two parties and countries, and to exchange opinions and discuss international changes of mutual interest since the current international situation is very complicated, particularly the situation in eastern Europe.

Mr. Yi is accompanied by a delegation consisting of a number of Korean officials.

Reviews Relations, Cooperation*JN2803191990 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1750 GMT
28 Mar 90*

[Text] Damascus, 28 Mar (SANA)—Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received at 1630 today Mr. Yi Chong-ok, DPRK vice president and member of the Korean Workers Party Political Bureau, and his delegation.

Mr. al-Zu'bi welcomed Mr. Yi Chong-ok and members of his delegation and affirmed the importance of developing strong relations of friendship between Syria and the DPRK to push cooperation forward between the two countries in various fields on a continuing basis.

Mr. Yi Chong-ok thanked Mr. al-Zu'bi for his kind words and the great hospitality and welcome accorded him and his delegation in friendly Syria. He praised the great economic and social achievements in Syria under President Hafiz al-Asad. He also affirmed his country's desire to deepen and expand cooperation with Syria.

He presented a brief account of the great strides in development taken in the DPRK under President Kim Il-song in various industrial, agricultural, scientific, educational, and other fields, as well as the economic objectives to be realized in the coming stage.

He also emphasized his country's firm and strong support for Syria in its stands of struggle against Zionist conspiracies and those of its allies.

In the meeting, Mr. al-Zu'bi noted the advances Syria is making in irrigation, agriculture, and industry, and the economic and financial policies it is following by depending on its own potential and national resources, and the positive results it is achieving in this field. He reiterated the importance of developing and expanding cooperation between Syria and the DPRK in various fields. He expressed his great appreciation for the DPRK's support for Syria's struggle. He also expressed Syria's support for Korea's struggle against international imperialism.

During the meeting, they also reviewed all the measures, and the scope, of cooperation between the two friendly

countries, which reflect the directives of the two leaders, President Hafiz al-Asad and President Kim Il-song, and which proceed from the roots of the deep friendship between the DPRK and Syria.

The review included fields of cooperation and topics considered of interest to the two friendly countries.

Al-Asad's Libya Visit Seen as Call for Unity

JN2403152090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 24 Mar 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya today celebrates the 20th anniversary of the expulsion of British forces and bases from its territory. These bases were used as headquarters for imperialist aggression on the Arab nation and, thanks to the 1 September Revolution, were changed into bases to deter aggression from this same Arab nation.

Leader al-Asad's participation in this event is an expression of this nation's unity of struggle in the face of its enemies, which lurk in wait of a chance to pounce on it. It is a manifestation of President al-Asad's calls for the solidarity and closeness of the children of this nation in face of the enemies' conspiracies and schemes. His participation will undoubtedly afford opportunities for meetings with other Arab leaders participating in these festivities, which could help to exchange views on all that could serve the nation, strengthen its steadfastness, and firm up its will to defy all evil-wishers.

When President al-Asad takes part in these celebrations and meetings, he proves that Arab solidarity is not merely a parroted word or slogan; no, it is concentrated action and constant effort to which leader al-Asad dedicates all his time and energy. He has warned more than once of the dangers of fragmentation and partition and of the results of wasting time on trivial matters and not rising to the level of challenges.

Gentlemen, everyone knows the dangers our nation is facing, foremost of which is the Zionist danger threatening everyone without exception. The scope of Israeli ambition extends everywhere throughout the Arab homeland. This ambition is receiving protection and support from international parties without which the Zionist enemy would not have had the guts to defy international will and assign itself the role of regional policeman.

The enemy has recently been revealing its true ambition and the dangers it poses to all Arabs. It has been talking through its deputy foreign minister indicating that Israel has a role in protecting oil routes, as though the oil countries were incapable of protecting them. It has also claimed that it plays a role in deterring what it called irresponsible regimes from threatening peace. What does Israel's talk of protecting oil routes mean other than a provocation to oil-producing Arab countries? And what

does Israel's talk of preventing the irresponsible regimes from threatening peace mean other than a siege of our rising Palestinian people and preventing Arabs from aiding and supporting them? Israel sees the Palestinian people's revolution and any Arab support as terrorism.

If the Zionist enemy, throughout its long history in the region, has concentrated on distorting facts, fabricating events, and depending on mistakes, then successive U.S. Administrations have worked to cover up for Israel's crimes and to support its proposals. When President George Bush finally spoke after a long silence and announced that Arab Jerusalem was an indivisible part of the occupied Arab territories, the Israeli enemy's machinery moved. The U.S. Senate members lobbied each other to pass a bill acknowledging Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

Today, the homelands, resources, destiny, and future of the Arabs are threatened. They have no alternative but to revive an effective Arab solidarity. The facts of the past and present have proven the futility of depending on capricious solutions from the outside. The international community is paralyzed. Its resolutions, which support Arab rights, have not taken their course toward implementation. In fact, Israel is behaving as though the whole world were incapable of tendering justice.

If we review Arab resources and potential, we find that the nation has means of power and force that could prevent Israeli belligerence and Zionist expansionism. This can only happen if Arabs are true to their cause, set a unified strategy, and are actually determined to confront Israel which has designs on their land and resources.

Arab solidarity has been a firm goal of Syria, which has never stopped appealing to Arab countries and their leaders to forget their marginal conflicts and rise to the level of the great challenge our nation is facing. Only yesterday, President al-Asad renewed his call to the Arab brothers to unite and close ranks. The issue cannot withstand any more stalling or postponement. The danger is very close, threatening all. Today, we face the historic test: to be or not to be.

The Arab nation is alive. Its glories throughout history attest to its vigor. Syria's steadfastness in the face of aggressive schemes is evidence of Arab rejection and ability to achieve victory. The Palestinian people's intifadah is another example of Arab rejection and of the spirit of steadfastness and resistance. The Arabs are today called on to rise to the level of the challenges, to bolster Arab ideals, to strengthen the spirit of steadfastness, to adhere to pan-Arab rights and goals, and to utilize their great resources to the benefit of their basic causes, foremost of which is the Palestine question.

When the international community sees that the Arabs have actually united and are determined to retrieve their rights, its resolutions will take their natural course and be implemented. The danger is close and Arab solidarity must translate into a perceptible and tangible reality on

the ground. Syria, as all her friends have known her, will always remain the vanguard fighting for their rights, liberty, dignity, and future.

Al-Shar' Receives Visiting Cypriot Official

*JN2803145890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1215 GMT 28 Mar 90*

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received at noon today Evstathios Evstathiou, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Cypriot Socialist Party, head of the Cypriot Bar Association, Cypriot parliamentarian, and president of the Cypriot-Syrian Friendship Society. The meeting was attended by Muhammad Khadr, head of the Western Europe Department at the ministry, and Mu'awiyah al-Tabba', secretary of the Syrian Bar Association.

During the meeting, they discussed the ties of friendship and cooperation between Syria and Cyprus. They also touched on the situation in the region and world developments.

Al-'Imadi on Expatriates, E. European Changes

*PM2303151790 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 21 Mar 90 p 9*

[Unattributed report on interview with Syrian Economy Minister Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi in Abu-Dhabi; date not given]

[Excerpts] A high-ranking senior official has given the clearest hint so far that his government may now have decided to drop the controversial "expatriates law" which was nearly promulgated last summer. The hint came in Syrian Economy Minister Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi's interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Abu-Dhabi, where he was attending the meetings of the Arab financial institutions.

Referring to that issue, al-'Imadi said that "the law is being reexamined in the light of observations made by expatriates about its merits and burdens for expatriates. Because of these observations, it was decided to give the study of the matter more time."

Although he avoided saying that the idea of the law has been dropped, Dr. al-'Imadi did say that "the whole matter has been postponed indefinitely." [passage omitted]

Al-'Imadi revealed in his interview that last year Syria settled \$1 billion of its debts to the Soviet Union in goods. He declined to say exactly how much Syria owed. He said: "Syria does not disclose any figures in this connection."

He said that the Syrian foreign trade balance is favorable but that Syria is compelled to use a major part of its export revenues to settle foreign debts.

Asked if Syria's crude oil production has improved enough to contribute to a solution of the debt problem, Dr. al-'Imadi said that "Syria's current daily production of light and heavy oil is 400,000 barrels, but a large part of the royalties from this production goes to pay for the exploration and production expenses incurred by the Bechtel and Shell companies." [passage omitted]

On the effects on the Syrian economy of the economic and political changes in East Europe, Dr. al-'Imadi said that one result of the changes is that Syria now deals with different circles in the socialist countries. Contracts, he said, are now signed directly with the various establishments instead of the governments. He added that the volume of trade has so far not changed and that exports there are now like exports to countries with free economies.

He added that the dollar is now being used in the trade with the East European countries and that the old barter system is receding. [passage omitted]

Correction to Cypriot-Syrian Friendship Society

WA2903124790

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Cypriot-Syrian Friendship Society Head Arrives," published in the 27 March Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 40: Column two, throughout only paragraph, make Cypriot official's name read: Evstathios Evstathiou. (correcting transliteration)

Afghanistan

Najibullah Names New Deputy Defense Ministers

BK2803150990 Hong Kong AFP in English 1450 GMT
28 Mar 90

[Text] Kabul, March 28 (AFP)—President Najibullah has appointed four deputy defence ministers in a continuing drive to restructure the armed forces following an abortive coup d'etat this month.

Lieutenant General Mohammad Zahim Solamal, Lieutenant General Mohammad Akram, Brigadier General Alauddin and Brigadier General Gul Mohammad were appointed deputy defence ministers Tuesday [27 March], a Foreign Ministry spokesman said here. He said the four men were "introduced" to the military by Defence Minister Aslam Watanjar, who took up his post following the failed March 6 coup.

The appointments were seen as part of Mr. Najibullah's continuing drive to restructure the armed forces after the coup led by former defence minister Shah Nawaz Tanay. Fifty-two generals have so far been promoted in the process.

The appointments were announced as sporadic fighting was reported from the southeastern provincial city of Khowst and the eastern province of Nangarhar between mujahidin guerrillas and government troops. Government artillery units and the air force killed or wounded 62 mujahidin fighters in and around Khowst and 53 rebels in Nangarhar during the past four days, the spokesman said. He did not mention government casualties in the fighting.

Mujahidin Kill 16 Officers in Qandahar Attack

BK2803152390 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] According to reports, Afghan mujahidin forces have carried out a fierce rocket attack on the Kabul regime headquarters at (Manzaibagh) area in Qandahar. News Agency MIDIA [Media Information Department of Islamic Afghanistan] reports that in the attack 16 officers and 11 troops of the Kabul regime were killed and one armored personnel carrier and two other armored vehicles were destroyed. The mujahidin also attacked the central jail of Qandahar, where they killed a large number of Kabul regime troops.

Fighting Against 'Extremists' Detailed

LD2603205290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] The units and companies of the hero Armed Forces stationed in Khowst Major District carry out their tasks with high combat capability and morale.

Quoting an authoritative source in the Armed Forces, the BIA military section reports that during the last four days, the armed extremists, Pakistani militarists, and Saudi Wahhabis have sporadically fired heavy weapons on a number of the security posts and on the units and companies at the front line in the direction of Esmail Khel, Gorbaz, and Tanay, causing no loss of life.

In retaliation for these attacks, their resistance regions and firing positions were subjected to air and artillery strikes. As a result of these attacks, and during mopping up operations in the foiling of the enemy attacks in the direction of Asar Ghara and Soway Ghoday on 25 March, there were 62 joint enemy casualties in the last four days. Their one reactive system, two rocket launchers and a vehicle loaded with arms and ammunition, were destroyed.

The units and companies of the Armed Forces in Khowst have full readiness to foil any type of possible attacks by the enemy. As a result of attacks by these units and companies, the morale of the extremist armed groups has become very low.

The source adds that the units and companies of the Armed Forces in Nangarhar Province are largely engaged in consolidation and fortification of their trenches and military training. Armed extremists, Pakistani militarists, and Saudi Wahhabis have fired sporadically during the last four days on a number of the security posts in Behsud, Sara Rod, Kahan and Katerghay, Samar Khel and Gambury Desht-e. In order to foil these clashes, the positions of the extremists attached to Pakistan were subjected to air and artillery strikes. As a result, 53 warmongers were put out of action. Their three rocket launchers, two mortars, and a vehicle loaded with arms and ammunition were destroyed. As a result of fire by the warmongers, four children were martyred and the house of a compatriot was damaged.

The source adds that the units and companies of the Armed Forces in Qandahar Province carried out artillery attacks on these enemy firing positions whence sporadic attacks were carried out on the security posts in Garda-e Baba, Makwan, and Tor Kotal and on a number of the security posts in Qalat. As a result, nine armed extremists linked to Pakistan were crushed and their three strongholds were destroyed.

According to another report, as a result of mopping up operations carried out recently in some parts of Konduz Province, 72 extremists were either injured or killed. Their ringleaders, Qayum, Qader, Nasim, and Joma are among those who were crushed. As a result of this activity, peace and security have been established in the villages of Angor Bagh, Paresa, Balaqi, Qara, Qeshlaq, Omer Khel, and Naqeb.

Bangladesh

Ershad Indicates 'Readiness' To Hold Elections

BK2903080690 *Delhi Domestic Service in English*
0730 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] The Bangladesh president, General Ershad, has expressed the hope that certain outstanding issues with India like water sharing and Chakma refugees will be resolved through discussions on the basis of sovereign equality.

In an interview with a Dhaka-based local daily, General Ershad indicated his readiness to hold general election to the Parliament before schedule if the opposition parties agree to participate.

Our Dhaka correspondent, Sanat Mukherjee, reports opposition parties are demanding the resignation of President Ershad and his government. They want immediate elections in the country under a neutral caretaker government.

Prime Minister Returns From Namibia 26 Mar

BK2603160090 *Dhaka Domestic Service in English*
1530 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed returned to Dhaka today after attending the Namibian independence celebrations in Windhoek. He led a four-member delegation to attend the celebrations. Kazi Zafar also met several world leaders, including the new president of Namibia, Sam Nujoma, and South African nationalist leader Nelson Mandela.

India

Minister: No Doubt About Pakistan's Intentions

BK2903035690 *Delhi Domestic Service in English*
0240 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] The home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, has deplored Pakistan's attempt at the destabilization of Kashmir. Replying to a special discussion in the Lok Sabha yesterday, he said the announcement of 10 crore rupees contribution to the so-called Kashmir fund by the Pakistan prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, and the tirade against India by the Pakistani electronic media leave no scope for doubt about their intention. He said our Army on the line of actual control is keeping a constant vigil, and steps have been strengthened to check infiltration.

Describing the Kashmir problem as a grand design to destabilize the secular image of the country, he asserted that the message should go out to the subversives in Kashmir and their abettors across the border that India would not tolerate any attack on Kashmir. Defending the government's action to combat the Kashmir problem, the home minister said that it did not lend itself to easy solution and any plan would take time to achieve results.

Mufti Muhammad Sayeed said that the longstanding problem cannot be solved in a matter of days, and it calls for cooperation of all political parties to tackle it.

The home minister termed as irresponsible the decision of the Congress-I to dissociate itself from the advisory committee on Kashmir formed to evolve a consensus and to work unitedly for solving the problem. The minister strongly refuted the opposition's allegations against the state governor, Mr. Jag Mohan. He said the governor has been doing his utmost and has worked to stop the exodus of Kashmiri minorities. Migration of people from the valley has been because of the fear psychosis created by militants. He also disclosed that our security forces have recently succeeded in apprehending over 26 subversives and obtained valuable information from them. Mr. Sayeed said legal advice is being sought to see whether the state assembly can be revived.

Earlier, taking part in the resumed discussion, members said there is a need to revive the political process in the state. Most of them said that it is a national problem and it should be kept above party politics. The members emphasized the need to isolate subversive elements and to take stern action against them.

Gujral on Pakistani 'Interference,' Sri Lanka

BK2903075590 *Delhi Domestic Service in English*
0730 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] The center is monitoring all developments having a bearing on India's security. This was stated by the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, in the Lok Sabha today. In a written reply, he said Pakistan's efforts to acquire sophisticated arms beyond its legitimate needs is of concern. The minister said the world's community, including many Islamic countries, have been apprised of Pakistan's interference in our internal affairs and its support to subversives in Jammu and Kashmir. He said the response has been broadly positive and helpful.

In answer to another question, the minister said the center will bear the whole burden of the 1,592 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees, who are now in relief camps in Koraput District in Orissa. This was stated by the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, in the Lok Sabha today. He said the stay of the refugees is temporary and they will be sent back to Sri Lanka as soon as conditions normalize there. The minister informed the House that the Sri Lankan Government is being persuaded to create conditions for their early return.

More On Gujral Remarks

BK2903093690 *Delhi Domestic Service in English*
0830 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, has said that India's stand on Kashmir has been well received and appreciated by many world leaders, including the U.S. President, Mr. George Bush. He told the Lok Sabha during the question hour today that in his

letter to the prime minister, Mr. Bush has maintained that India is on the right track.

Replying to supplementaries, Mr. Gujral said Kashmir is an integral part of India and as such there is no question of referring our case to any court. He said India has already conveyed to the U.S. ambassador in New Delhi its concern about an inaccurate statement made by a U.S. State Department spokesman. He said there are some lobbies which are working for Pakistan in the U.S. Senate.

Mr. I.K. Gujral told the Lok Sabha today that Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka have been lodged in Orissa temporarily and will be sent back as soon as conditions become congenial in the island republic. Replying to a question, he said the entire expenditure on the refugees numbering about 1,600 will be borne by the center. He said the Sri Lankan Government is being persuaded to create conditions congenial for their early return. He also refuted allegations made by some members against the Tamil Nadu government for not accommodating the refugees by saying that Tamil Nadu has already given shelter to over 90,000 refugees. Mr. Gujral also categorically affirmed that the peacekeeping force had discharged its duties well in Sri Lanka.

In reply to a question, the minister said there has not been any further move as yet on signing a peace and friendship treaty with Sri Lanka.

Spokesman Denies Exodus of Refugees Into Kashmir

BK2903031990 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] In New Delhi, an official spokesman has categorically denied that there is an exodus of Indian refugees into the Pak-occupied Kashmir. When newsmen drew his attention to reports broadcast in this regard by a foreign radio, the spokesman described such news report as totally untrue, ridiculous, mischievous, and motivated falsehood spread by some elements in Pak-occupied Kashmir and elsewhere in Pakistan.

Text of Official Denial

BK2903105290 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information
Service in English 0915 GMT 29 Mar 90

["Official Spokesman's Statement on Kashmir"]

[Text] The official spokesman made the following statement in reply to a question about a story put out by BBC today [28 March] that some refugees from J and K [Jammu and Kashmir] crossed over to POK [Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir].

Our attention has been drawn to a totally untrue broadcast about the alleged exodus of thousands of so-called Indian refugees into POK from Jammu and Kashmir. As is well known, the terrain through which such an influx is supposed to have taken place, is very difficult territory with high mountain passes which are blocked during this

time of the year. Also, the border areas are heavily defended and there is a strong presence of our armed forces along the entire Line of Control. It would be a physical impossibility for such large numbers of people to have crossed such well defended and geographically difficult territory in snow-bound conditions unobserved.

It is quite clear that spreading this kind of news from POK and elsewhere in Pakistan is part of a pattern of disinformation designed to build a smoke screen around their own nefarious activities and to incite tensions amongst people.

We categorically deny such absurd, ridiculous, mischievous and motivated falsehoods spread by the authorities in POK and elsewhere in Pakistan. We are surprised that a reputable organisation like the BBC, through their correspondent in Islamabad, has picked up such palpable disinformation without bothering to cross check their facts.

BBC Reports Criticized

BK2803162890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1544 GMT
28 Mar 90

[Text] New Delhi, March 28 (AFP)—Indian soldiers opened fire to stop some 100 Pakistani civilians who were trying to illegally cross the Kashmir border, killing at least two, as New Delhi Wednesday [28 March] strongly refuted a BBC report that thousands of Kashmiris had fled to Pakistan.

Meanwhile, former Premier Rajiv Gandhi decided to lead an MPs' [members of Parliament] march on the presidential palace to express concern over the volatile situation in Kashmir, a spokesman for his Congress (I) party announced here Wednesday.

The army opened fire to stop some 100 people from Pakistan-ruled Kashmir's Rohta Village who tried to cross over to Indian-held Kashmir Wednesday morning, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said. Two people were killed when the army opened fire after some of the alleged mass intruders entered Indian territory, disregarding warnings, in the Keran area on the line of control, which was set after the third and last India-Pakistan war ended in December 1971, sources quoted by PTI said. The rest of the "slogan-chanting Pakistanis" fled back after the shooting, which took place some "200 metres inside" the Indian side, the news agency said. There was no independent confirmation.

Meanwhile, an Indian Ministry of External Affairs spokesman denied as "absurd (and) mischievous" a report by the British Broadcasting Corp. that thousands had fled Indian-held Kashmir to Pakistani side recently. He told a regular press briefing that it would be physically impossible for such a large number to cross "a well-defended" control line. The BBC report from Islamabad, attributed to a Pakistani minister, was "part of a pattern of disinformation," he said.

India has accused Islamabad of aiding Muslim militants fighting to end Indian rule in Kashmir, a charge rejected by Islamabad. India and Pakistan, which both claim Kashmir, have fought two of their three wars over the dispute since the subcontinent's 1947 partition and independence from the British.

A Congress (I) spokesman in the meantime said that Mr. Gandhi would lead a march of his opposition party MPs on the presidential palace here to inform President Ramawamy Venkataraman of their "concern at the deteriorating situation" in Kashmir.

The parliamentarians from the former ruling party, which has been critical of how Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh's National Front government was tackling the Kashmir situation, was to present a memorandum to Mr. Venkataraman, the spokesman said.

Members of Mr. Singh's government and many Kashmiris blame the deterioration of the situation in the Kashmir Valley on alleged neglect and mishandling of the state by Mr. Gandhi's 1984-1989 government.

Government Seeks To Return 90,000 Tamil Refugees

*BK2803093090 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 28 Mar 90*

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, has said that India will persuade Sri Lanka to create proper conditions for the early return of the 90,000 Tamil refugees now in Tamil Nadu and Orissa. Replying to questions in the Rajya Sabha today, he said India does not want to interfere in the internal affairs of Sri Lanka and it hopes to have cordial relations with that country. Mr. Gujral expressed happiness that the deinduction of the peacekeeping force from Sri Lanka has been completed with dignity. He informed the members that the Tamil refugees who landed in Orissa were thoroughly searched to ensure that they do not carry any arms.

In reply to a supplementary, Mr. Gujral said the chief minister of the Northeastern Provincial Council, Mr. Varadaraja Perumal, is not in India.

The minister also informed the members that proper security measures are being taken in all the refugee camps in Orissa to ensure that the refugees abide by the law. The state government has been asked to tighten measures to prevent any unlawful activities by the refugees now staying in camps.

Singh Praises Sri Lanka Peacekeeping Force

*BK2803145790 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 28 Mar 90*

[Text] The prime minister has highly commended the peacekeeping force for their role in Sri Lanka. Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh was addressing the officers and jawans [soldiers] who returned to New Delhi today after completing their assignment in the island nation. The prime minister said the peacekeeping force discharged

its duties in that country with courage and devotion under difficult circumstances. He urged the defense forces to be always on the vigil to face any challenge that would confront the country.

Extension of Punjab President's Term Approved

*BK2803130190 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 28 Mar 90*

[Text] The Rajya Sabha has approved the extension of president's rule in Punjab by another six months. The constitution's 64th amendment bill was adopted by the House as amended by an overwhelming majority of 157 for and one against. The amendment reducing the period of extension of president's rule from one year, as proposed in the original bill, to six months was moved by the home minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed.

The House witnessed procedural wrangle for nearly half an hour when Mr. P.K. Bansal, Congress-I, moved an identical amendment to the one moved by the home minister. The member contended that he had given notice for the amendment first and it should stand in his name also. He was supported by several of his party colleagues.

The parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. P. Upendra, and the leader of the House, Mr. M.S. Gurupadaswami, said that when notices are there for identical amendments, the business has to go by convention. The vice chairman, Dr. Vijay Mohan Reddy, ruled that since the minister in charge has moved the amendment, it will be put to vote. The House then passed the bill as amended. The present term of the president's rule expires on the 10th of May.

Earlier, replying to the debate, the home minister said the decision to extend the president's rule in Punjab is not a happy one and government will try that conditions are created within the shortest possible time to hold elections in the state. Mr. S.S. Ahluwalia, Congress-I, later withdrew his amendment proposing to refer the bill to a select committee of the House.

12 'Terrorists' Escape From Srinagar Central Jail

*BK2803144290 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 28 Mar 90*

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, 12 terrorists escaped in a jailbreak from the central jail in Srinagar last night. A massive hunt is on by the security forces to apprehend the terrorists. The state government has dismissed the jail superintendent and launched an inquiry to find out the involvement of others in the incident. Our correspondent reports that curfew continues in Jammu, but the situation is under control.

Meanwhile, the state government has decided to make Punch and Rajauri a special division. The division will have a special commissioner and one DIG [deputy inspector general] of police. This is to strengthen the administration and step up vigil in the border areas.

Arms Licensing Policy 'Liberalized' in Punjab

BK2903034890 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] The Punjab government has liberalized the arms licensing policy in the state. According to an official spokesman, it has been done for the convenience of the needy persons who want to protect themselves. The new policy announced in Chandigarh yesterday envisages active cooperation of the license holders with law enforcing machinery for curbing, preventing, and detecting of all kinds of crimes in the state. The spokesman said that the procedure governing the issuing of arms licenses has been simplified.

Leader Refuses Posting to Janata Dal Board

BK2803051690 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0435 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] The Janata Dal general secretary, Mr. Yaswant Singh, has refused to accept the post of secretaryship of the party's parliamentary board. According to a report, he has informed the prime minister that under the party constitution, the secretary general of the party should be the ex officio secretary of the parliamentary board. Mr. Singh said that he is not interested in a position which is not constitutionally valid.

Non-Congress-I Coalition Ministry Sworn In

BK2703154190 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1508 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Excerpt] In Goa, a non-Congress-I coalition 10-member ministry headed by Churchill Alemao was sworn in in Panaji on 27th March. Governor Khurshid Alam Khan administered oath of office and secrecy at a function at Raj Bhavan [Governor's House]. [passage omitted]

Chief of Highest Sikh Religious Body Resigns

BK2803145590 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] The chief of the Akal Takht [highest seat of Sikh religious authority], Professor Darshan Singh, has tendered his resignation in protest against what he described the dictatorial attitude of the president of the SGPC [Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee—Sikh Temples Management Committee], Mr. G.S. Tohra. Talking to newsmen in Amritsar today, Professor Darshan Singh said that he has resigned following differences with Mr. Tohra on some issues.

71 Radio Stations To Be Commissioned in 1990

BK2303102090 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] Seventy-one radio stations are likely to be completed during the next financial year. Forty television transmitters, including 18 high-powered ones, are to be commissioned during the same period. The information

and broadcasting minister, Mr. P. Upendra, gave this information in a written reply in the Lok Sabha today. He said 19 program production centers will be set up and work will begin on nine high-powered transmitters during 1990-91.

At present, 100 All India Radio stations and 514 TV transmission centers are functioning in the country.

Iran

Clandestine Radio on 'Secret Talks' With U.S.

LD2703193990 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian
Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Dear listeners: Following the revelation of secret talks between the Islamic Republic and U.S. authorities, and the involvement of the Islamic Republic and the U.S. House of Representatives in (?this way), the split in the leadership of the regime with regard to this issue has acquired new dimensions.

It has now become quite clear that the release of hostages is merely a pretext and the chief issue goes far beyond what the officials of the two country say. It has now become clear that the several-months-long secret talks conducted between the two parties have reached a point whereby the two sides feel that the time has come to have open relations and begin formal talks. Several days ago the Bush Administration requested the U.S. House of Representatives to permit the start of formal talks with the Islamic Republic. Though the Congress opposed the appointment of an official representative for purposes of contact with Iran—and this, more than anything else is due to the Congress believing that the time is still not appropriate—still, the formulation of such requests from the Congress is a sign that secret contacts have to a large extent led to the improvement of relations.

Political moves and countermoves to establish formal relations with the Islamic Republic have met with a variety of reactions from the ruling cliques in Iran. While the Hashemi-Rafsanjani-Khamene'i factions, by somehow evading the issue of the talks, are waiting for the arrival of a suitable time [as heard], the hardliners are showing extreme reactions. In this connection, several days ago 170 Majles deputies, taking an official stance, asked the Iranian Foreign Ministry to deny that the talks took place. But, up to this moment the foreign minister has not replied and this silence means that the Foreign Ministry cannot deny the (?extent) of the negotiations since these did take place. At the same time it is unlikely that (?it would confirm that talks have taken place)—because, under circumstances when the establishment of the regime's relations with the great Satan [word indistinct] of the line of the imam, needs time, any announcement by the Foreign Ministry has maintained silence so that the dust may settle, as the saying goes.

The problem of the renewal of relations between Iran and the United States, to the extent that it relates to

Washington's officials, is largely on its way to being solved. The only obstacle along their path is the continued detention of 17 Western hostages in Lebanon. If the hostages, or even a number of them are not released, the hands of the ruling circle in Washington will be tied behind their backs regarding the renewal of relations since its justification to Western public opinion by the Bush Administration would be difficult. This is because, first, hostage-taking is an inhuman and unethical act and today's world condemns these types of actions on the part of anyone. Second, the Islamic Republic is a regime that has a bad reputation with world public opinion. [passage omitted]

Due to this reason the West needs a strong propaganda weapon and a concession which would have the strength to (?control) public opinion, and this concession is the release of the Western hostages in Lebanon. Thus, the two sides have made this issue a cover for their negotiations.

But to make renewal of relations acceptable to all the currents within the ruling circle in Iran is not as simple as that. The Khamene'i-Hashemi-Rafsanjani faction, due to different reasons, including the fact that they need to attract U.S. and European aid for economic reconstruction, favor these relations. And they have been making efforts in that direction for sometime now. They are constantly thinking about how and in what way they can achieve their objectives. Of course they face two serious difficulties. One is the picture (?they have painted) of the United States in the Islamic Republic; they themselves have for years referred to it as the great Satan and have benefitted from this propaganda. Now, it will not be simple to tell the crowd that they (?have raised) that it is necessary to have relations with the Satan!

Second, the rivals are [words indistinct] to use any means possible in their struggle for power with them. Relations with the United States is also a very powerful weapon for them in their struggle against their rivals. Due to this very reason, the ruling faction—both to justify and establish relations with the Satan and also to disarm its rivals—is forced to take into consideration all aspects of the matter and advance gradually, and, even in some cases, come up with hollow statements against the United States.

In an examination of the question of relations between the Islamic Republic and the United States, it is necessary to note an important development. In the past, the hardliners were in agreement over defending the detention of the hostages and [rejecting] the idea of intentions to establish relations with the United States. But now the situation is not like it was. While some of them still maintain the old positions and ideas, an important section of them want relations, and if they have any criticisms it is in connection with the time and manner of such a renewal of relations. In sum, the trend of events in the past few months have moved in a direction that does not allow Hezbollah hardliners from preventing the improvement of relations between the regime and the

United States, even though they still have the power to create obstacles and delay the task. In all this, what has to be emphasized by the progressive parties and organizations of Iran and our patriotic people is neither the continuation of the detention of Western hostages nor the continuation of the break in relations between Iran and the United States, but the two sides should be asked to reveal their present relations. They should openly declare their reasons for keeping the talks for the renewal of relations and why they do not say what they have been talking about and on what issues they have reached agreement during their several months of negotiations.

Iran needs to establish open, equal, and mutually [word indistinct] relations with all countries in the world, including the United States, to overcome her existing problems. To control the mutual benefits of these relations, and in the midst of this, if no deals are made over Iran's national resources, then these relations should be open and official and they should be reported to the people of the country. This is the (?just) demand of our people over the (?present) case of the hostages and the renewal of relations with the United States.

French, British Accused of Muslim 'Hostility'

*LD2803102690 Tehran IRNA in English 0850 GMT
28 Mar 90*

[Text] Tehran, March 28, IRNA—A Persian daily said Wednesday that the ever-increasing influence of Islam in contemporary world was undeniable whether the Western World liked it or not.

The Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in a political commentary discussed the recent criminal acts by racist groups in France in which at least three Muslims were martyred and scores of others were injured.

The French Government has neither condemned conduct of racist groups who are active throughout France nor taken effective measures to end these crimes and brutalities, it said.

The commentary added that freedom of action the French criminals and organized gangs enjoy in their attacks on lives and properties of Muslims in France should be assessed as part of regular physical, political, and cultural aggression or Western arrogance against Muslims, their values and lives throughout the world.

The absurd campaign of some French Government decision-makers against Islamic hijab of Muslim students and their subsequent expulsion from universities or the country, should be reviewed as part of this hostile strategy.

It continued, "All the blasphemous films or books made or published to sacrilege Muslim's sanctities, the huge investment by global arrogance to fight against Muslims' values and beliefs, and terrorizing or assassinating Muslims on Paris streets by racist gangs must be considered chains of a single conspiracy."

The daily urged governments of France and Britain to review world events more realistically and avoid destroying what is left of their prestige in Islamic countries and cease hostility against Muslims.

Karrubi Condemns U.S. Propaganda Against Cuba

*LD2803161990 Tehran IRNA in English 1520 GMT
28 Mar 90*

[Text] Tehran, Mar 28, OANA-IRNA—The Majles speaker today strongly condemned Washington's electronic propaganda campaign against Cuba terming it "an aggression" on Cuba's sovereignty.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi Karrubi in a meeting with outgoing Cuban Ambassador Isidoro E. Contreras Perez also praised resistance of the Cuban Government and people, and lauded Fidel Castro.

The Cuban ambassador said his country is at present the only obstacle in the region preventing the U.S. to materialize its sinister plots. Therefore, he added, Washington has increased its pressures on Cuba.

Havana believes that Washington is trying to find an excuse to launch a military attack on his country, he said and reiterated Cuba's resolve to counter American plots.

By means of sophisticated electronic devices, the U.S. T.V. recently disrupted a regular programme on the Cuban T.V. channel, and broadcast its propaganda to stunned Cuban viewers.

Nuclear Trigger Devices Bound for Iraq Seized

*LD2803210190 Tehran IRNA in English 2010 GMT
28 Mar 90*

[Text] London, March 28, IRNA—A number of Iraqis are due to be deported from Britain after an American trigger device for a nuclear bomb was found and seized by customs officials at Heathrow Airport in London today (Wednesday).

The device came in on a TWA flight from the U.S. and was to have been transferred to an Iraqi Airways flight to Baghdad. British customs officers are believed to have raided the Iraqi airline offices and a warehouse in London and are holding a number of people, including Iraqi Airline staff.

The Iraqi ambassador has been summoned to the UK's Foreign Office in London, to be told that some Iraqi citizens will be deported. However, the British have known for some time of Baghdad's attempts to build nuclear and chemical weapon arsenals and has even assisted them.

Only after the execution of OBSERVER journalist Farzad Bazoft this month, and an increase in public condemnation of Iraq in Britain, has the government begun to condemn Iraq itself, although this has been extremely light criticism until this latest incident.

Less than two weeks ago, an American documentary shown on BBC television in Britain stated that when the Iraqis put a rocket into space "American computers were in the control rooms, West German equipment was utilized, Austrian engineers gave advice" and the rocket was of "Soviet design."

The maker of the programme, Charles Glass of ABC television, said that no government has tried to isolate Iraq over its development and use of chemical weapons and its attempts to develop nuclear weapons.

'Air of Suspicion' Reported in Iraqi Capital

*LD2803183290 Tehran IRNA in English 1658 GMT
28 Mar 90*

[Text] Kuwait, March 28, IRNA—Diplomatic sources here report of stepped-up precautionary measures around sensitive areas in Baghdad.

Iraq's Ba'thist regime has reinforced anti-aircraft defence units atop buildings, is strictly controlling movement of public and private vehicles and carefully inspecting people in the city limits.

An air of suspicion dominates the capital, said the sources, with special patrol units including Ba'th Party militia and the dreaded secret police roving Baghdad streets and checking scared citizens at random, the sources said.

A Kuwait-based foreign diplomat who was recently in Baghdad, said everything was closely controlled by intelligence units and nobody dared to protest the high-handedness of Saddam's secret police.

He described the current stifling measures as unprecedented, and said all streets leading to the presidential palace and headquarters of the Ba'th Party are manned by the secret police, and suspects are being herded up and whisked away to police and Ba'th Party centers for interrogation.

The diplomat, who requested anonymity, said the present situation in the Iraqi capital was certainly not normal and signs of terror and panic are evident on city residents.

Iraqi Implementation of Resolution 598 Urged

*LD2803130890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1058 GMT 28 Mar 90*

[Excerpts] On the eve of extending the mission of the UN observer forces stationed along the Iran-Iraq border, a report by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar was released yesterday on the performance of these forces over the past six months. [passage omitted] The report, in part, says that as yet, Iraq has not been able to agree with the constructive proposals on strengthening the ceasefire and creating conditions conducive to a solution of the wider issues within the framework of the

implementation of Resolution 598. Although the secretary general has proposed a new plan, with the backing of the Security Council, to get the talks going, and contacts with the two sides are continuing to fix a new date for the resumption of talks, the Security Council is still duty-bound to prepare the necessary ground and to employ appropriate international levers to implement Resolution 598, for this is a binding resolution. And in view of the assignment given to the secretary general as the executor of the resolution, it is necessary for the Security Council and the secretary general to pave the way for the implementation of the resolution by requiring and persuading the Iraqi regime to show respect and commitment to the international principles and the UN Charter.

Two Iraqi Spies Executed 28 Mar

LD2803141490 Tehran IRNA in English 1014 GMT
28 Mar 90

[Text] Zahedan, Sistan-Baluchestan Province, March 28, IRNA—Two bandits convicted of spying for the Iraqi regime were executed here Wednesday morning.

The two were tried and sentenced to death by the Islamic revolutionary court of Zahedan. In addition to espionage activities Abbas Raisi and Ahmad Jangi Razhi were found guilty of collaborating with bandits and counter-revolutionaries in the Baluchestan area.

Feda'iyān-e Khalq New Year Message

LD2503195290 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian
Toilers in Persian 1530 GMT 24 Mar 90

[Excerpts] The New Year message of the Central Committee of Iran's Feda'iyān-e Khalq organization, majority wing:

Spring greetings! Nowruz, our ancient New Year's Day, the national festival of Iranians, and historical tradition has arrived. Our New Year is a symbol of joy and hope, of renovation and reblossoming, of the revitalization of lives. Nowruz calls on all of us to be joyful. Mark this tradition of ours with happiness, joy and celebration. The Central Committee of Iran's Feda'iyān-e Khalq organization, majority wing, extends New Year's greetings to all compatriots and, at the start of the New Year, it wishes all Iranians a new day, a new life, and, for our freedom-loving nation, it wishes freedom and prosperity. [passage omitted] Spring and freedom will return to our nation if we all link hands and unite in the struggle against the velayat-e faqih [vice-regency of the jurisconsult] regime. Free people of Iran! Nowruz has arrived and it is spring, but a hundred regrets for the empty places of the martyrs. On this New Year, too, the voices of thousands of Iranian free thinkers, who were martyred in the regime's execution chambers, fills the homeland. The martyrs' brave voices ask us to prevent the government's leaders from killing more or the people's children. We can and must stop the killing.

Today, the conditions are more suitable for struggle than before. The force for defending freedom and human rights has never been as strong as today in the world. Inside the country, the velayat-e faqih regime is weaker and the battle against it for freedom and human rights has attracted more forces. Recall how thousands of our compatriots poured into the streets and chanted slogans against the government leaders in the months of Bahman and Esfand [months beginning 21 January and 20 February] in Tehran, Esfahan, Shiraz, Tabriz and some other towns. Recall how the regime does not know what to do in the face of thousands of families of those martyred and imprisoned who pursue the fight against the regime in various ways.

All those realities show that if all of Iran's progressive forces unite and if everyone steps onto the battlefield against the velayat-e faqih tyranny, the government leaders will not be able to stand fast any longer and will have to retreat their current positions. Let us put together the resources of all our compatriots and unite them in the struggle against tyranny and for freedom and human rights. Toward that humanitarian end, let us unite around the slogan: Long live freedom; long live human rights!

Compatriots! One of the very important events of last year was the visit of the representative delegation of the UN human rights commission to the Islamic Republic. The importance of the event lies in the fact that the Islamic Republic stood against such a request from Iran's political forces, the honorable families of martyrs and political prisoners and international public opinion for years. The regime's surrender before that demand was a great victory for Iran's freedom-seeking movement.

The result of the delegation's visit was a comprehensive report. Although the report reflects glimpses of the regime's crimes in the words of living witnesses, (?it falls short) of a true report. The reason for that is the regime's obstructionism. The Iranian people expected the Islamic Republic to be condemned on the basis of that albeit inadequate report. However, the human rights commission voted for the continued examination of (?received) complaints and for another visit by the delegation to Iran.

The delegation will go to Iran again in the New Year. Put all your documents, cases, information, observations, and experiences at their disposal in any way which will guarantee their being seen by the delegation. That is of enormous importance for the sake of foiling the regime's efforts in (?keeping the facts hidden) and for the sake of saving the lives of political prisoners and preventing further killings. Use every possible means toward that end.

Humanitarian people of Iran! In our homeland, hundreds of thousands of families are in mourning and have lost dear ones. As a result of the mullah's war and tyranny, hundreds of thousands of people have been

killed, injured, or have disappeared. Thousands of children have been deprived of fatherly love. Thousands of women have lost their husbands. Many men have lost their lion-hearted wives in the path of freedom. Tens of thousands of children and brothers have been torn from the arms of their mothers, fathers, and sisters. This New Year, those dear ones are shedding tears of blood. In addition, during this plague-ridden government's rule, several million of our compatriots have been forced to leave the homeland and for that reason countless family members have been separated.

All those families need our help. Rush to see them! Help them with anything which will cheer their sad hearts and which will lift the burden from their shoulders. Tell them that Iran is alive and just as it overthrew the rule of the Arabs and Mongols, it can also remove the current tyrannical regime. Tell them that the sunlight of freedom will not remain hidden behind the dark clouds of dictatorship forever. The life of oppression and darkness will end, the spring of freedom will soon return, and the days of separation from dear ones will come to an end.

Give hope to mourning families that the life of the velayat-e faqih, which is the source of all the hardship, will end and from its rubble a free Iran will rise to warmly embrace the children of this land.

The Central Committee of Iran's Feda'iyan-e Khalq organization, majority wing, once again wishes all Iranians a happy Nowruz, a joyful heart and true freedom. Happy New Year.

Central Committee of Iran's Feda'iyan-e Khalq organization, majority wing; New Year, 1369.

President Returns From Provincial Tour, Comments

NC2703115290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani concluded his three-day visit to the underprivileged areas of Sistan va Baluchestan, Hormuzgan, and Kerman and arrived in Tehran last evening. In his remarks to correspondents in Tehran, the president said: This was a working visit, free from all formalities. This is why we did not go to the province centers, but only to the deprived areas affiliated with them.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: In this visit we were able to see areas which one cannot comprehend through someone else's description. This visit was a remarkable one for me, and we were able to make appropriate decisions as well.

Regarding his visit to the flood-stricken areas in southern Sistan va Baluchestan, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: With its climate and land, I think this area has the potential to yield harvests during all seasons throughout the year. For example, the plants do not ever stop growing throughout the year—hay is produced all

year long. However, despite all this potential, the standard of education is low, unfortunately, and the potential and aptitudes are not being tapped as they should.

Continuing this interview, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to his inspection of the Pishin Dam and said: In southern Sistan va Baluchestan, which has a water shortage, the construction of four dams is being planned. The Pishin Dam is in the final stages of construction, and I am optimistic that this dam will be operational by 1991 resulting in the storage of 400 million cubic meters of water. This will save the area from further seasonal inundation.

The president commented on his visit to the coastal areas and the fishing piers under construction in the Chah Bahar area which will have a noticeable effect on the region's economy and said: We have selected a site for a free transit zone in the border areas of the Sistan va Baluchestan Province, and the plan is being studied. He added: We will repeat our experiment with Kish Island, and we will be able to have four [as heard] free trade areas: one in Chah Bahar, one in Hormuzgan, and another in the north of the Persian Gulf.

Referring to his meeting with the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the Armed Forces, and the law enforcement and security forces stationed in the Sistan va Baluchestan Province, the president expressed his appreciation for these forces' sincere efforts and stressed: The Sistan va Baluchestan Province officials have created remarkable security conditions in this region and like the rest of the country, this region is ready for investment.

The president expressed his appreciation for the services of the Hormuzgan Governorate and the Imam Khomeini Aid Committee in meeting out the necessary services to the revolutionary and devout people of Bashagard's underprivileged areas. He stressed that 100 million cubic meters of water from the four rivers in this deprived region of Bashagard can be controlled. This would be a major leap in ameliorating the economic condition of Bashagard's noble residents.

Similarly, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani alluded to the outcome of his visit to the Kahnui and Jiroft areas and how to bolster agriculture in these areas and said: After surveying and assessing the fertile regions of the fields of Rudbaran, Minujan, Kahnui, and Jiroft, we realize that if these areas have an abundant water supply, soil, and a suitable climate, we can reap multiple harvests in one year.

On his visit to Kahnui's tribal areas, the president stated: There are 110,000 nomadic tribes and 3 million cattle in this area. I observed that the tribal chiefs, who also belonged to one of the martyrs' families, had concluded that the tribes should have houses. They also concluded that their children cannot receive higher education, and at this point we should not permit the children's potential to be wasted.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: I have agreed that 300 deep wells, land, and livestock breeding facilities should be set up along the fields. In other areas where the tribes want to settle, this is an excellent policy and can be implemented everywhere. The president then commented on his visit to the agricultural and industrial areas of Jiroft and said: My visit to the agricultural and industrial areas of Jiroft has boosted our determination to pursue revamping the irrigation system. When an 800-hectare field for citrus fruit uses the drip method, it can use one-third of the water used in traditional irrigation so two-thirds of the water is saved. We announced that we can use this method in cultivating groves of palms, citrus fruits, and pistachios thus tripling our harvests.

He stressed that for the orchard and field owners in areas where there is a water shortage who want to use scientific methods—the drip method, the network method, or planting in deep water—we shall provide all necessary facilities. In the Five-Year Plan this kind of irrigation will be expanded quickly.

Concluding this interview, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that the decisions made during this visit can prove immensely effective and beneficial in improving the deprived regions of the southern provinces. I hope that I will succeed in serving these people as much as possible.

Khamene'i Returns to Tehran From Mashhad

*LD2803141290 Tehran IRNA in English 0811 GMT
28 Mar 90*

[Text] Tehran, March 28, IRNA—The leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i returned to Tehran from the holy city of Mashhad Tuesday.

During his six-day stay in Mashhad, the leader visited the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS), the 8th imam of Prophet Mohammad's (pbuh) household and received local officials, ulema and theologians. [sentence as received]

Papers Compare Situation in Lithuania, Azerbaijan

*LD2903113690 Tehran IRNA in English 0920 GMT
29 Mar 90*

[Text] Tehran, March 29, IRNA—The West and East seem to have agreed on giving independence to Lithuania and later the other two Soviet Balkan [as received] republics of Latvia and Estonia, said an Iranian daily Thursday. "Political observers believe that the three Baltic states Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania will secede from the Soviet Union by the end of this year," said KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in its editorial.

The English daily added that the argument seemed acceptable by comparing the different ways Moscow handled issues in Azerbaijan and Lithuania and also U.S. Administration's reactions to the Soviet policies in this connection. The shouts of independence in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan were silenced by bullets and the

West supported the killing of the Azeris, said the daily. But, in Vilnius the capital of Lithuania, not a single bullet has been fired by the Soviet troops. Also Kremlin has received warnings from U.S. Administration since Lithuania declared itself an independent state, it added. While there are tens of thousands in Lithuania unwilling to separate from the Soviet Union the seven million Azerbaijanis demonstrated their unity of expression for independence in a January demonstration.

Meanwhile, commenting on the same subject the Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said that the situation in Lithuania seemed very complicated and that it is a test for Kremlin's power. Moscow accepted freedom of action of communist parties in Soviet republics hoping to use this lever to its own benefit at times of crisis, said the commentary. However, the Lithuania developments were so fast that the Communist Party failed to check the crisis. Failure of the Lithuanian Communist Party encouraged Kremlin to use military force to control the crisis.

Moscow's problem has to do with its double standard in dealing with its Asian and European republics, it said adding that it reacted to people in Azerbaijan with bullets but in Lithuania acted in a manner that its prestige, power and credibility were at stake. Trend of events are as such that Lithuania is heading towards military clashes with republic's officials stating that the military is acting independent from Moscow. This, it added, indicates that the grounds are being prepared for a probable bloody purge in Lithuania in a way that would at least be effective in this European republic.

Baku Observance of Islamic New Year Reported

*LD2703231890 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT
27 Mar 90*

[Text] Ardebil (East Azerbaijan), March 27, IRNA—Over 30,000 Muslims from Soviet Azerbaijan and Iran's Northwestern border areas exchanged visits during the first three days of "Nowruz" (March 21) which heralded the start of the solar Hijra year 1369, reported Baku Television last night.

Following an agreement between the Islamic Republic and the Soviet Union last January, people on both sides of the border who share religious, lingual and cultural ties, exchanged visits via the four border points of Astara, Bileh Savar, Garmeh and Jolfa, it added.

Some 6,000 people, 3,500 Azerbaijani and the rest Iranians, crossed to the other side via Astara alone, said the television adding that Soviet Azerbaijan has made preparations for building 200 hotels in order to facilitate visits from the Iranian side.

For the first time in over 70 years, Nowruz, which marks the start of the calendar year in Iran, was declared a public holiday in Soviet Azerbaijan.

Soviet Azeris who visited the Islamic Republic, returned to their hometowns with copies of the Holy Koran, Nahjul Balagha and other much sought after mementos including the pictures of the man who ushered in the Islamic revolution, the late Imam Khomeyni.

Commentary on Afghan Shiite Conclave

NC2403171590 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI
in Persian 17 Mar 90 p 3

[M.H. Miri comemntary: "On the Sidelines of the Convocation of the Shiite Assembly of Afghanistan"]

[Text] In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. The first conclave of the Afghan Shiites was held on Tuesday afternoon in celebration of the happy and auspicious birthday of the hidden imam (may God expedite his noble advent), the deliverer of humanity, with the message by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the beloved president of the Muslim Iranian nation, at the Esteqlal Hotel in Tehran. Eminent personalities including scholars, commanders, Afghan refugees, and combatant figures participated. It ended on Thursday after three days of deliberations, exchanges of views, and the adoption of a resolution.

In view of the present sensitive juncture, the convocation of such a convention is unprecedented in the history and geography of Afghanistan and is evidence of a special trait in its combatant and valiant people to attain their lofty objectives. The initiative to convene an assembly of Shiite Afghans, to incur the favor of God, seemed to be from the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, whose hearts beat constantly for Islam and the Muslims. However, the fact is that the heroic Muslim people of Afghanistan have realized that the greatest impediments in their attainment of the predetermined objectives of their Holy war—which is aimed at establishing the sovereignty of the pure Islam of Muhammad (peace be upon him and his scion) on the soil of an Islamic Afghanistan—are the lack of necessary coordination, discord among the warring and combatant groups despite the innumerable sacrifices, and efforts which have been made in this regard.

It is obvious that the enemies of Islam are trying to use the Shiite Muslims of Afghanistan as a chronic and putrid tactic of creating dissent, in order to achieve their base colonial objectives and to chant their heartrending litany of their dread of the Muslims' unity from their Satanic loudspeakers. A cursory glance at the salient points of the resolution adopted at the conclave reveals that the initiative will be forced from the hands of the enemies of Islam and will snuff out all diabolical schemes in their embryonic stage.

One of the highlights of the resolution adopted by the Afghan Shiite assembly is the demand for the solidarity of all the combatant Shiite groups. The resolution has deemed this an important step on the path of forging solidarity among all the groups and expresses hope that unity among Shiites will be a precursor to the complete

unity of all the Afghan Muslims, whether they are Shiite or Sunni. In addition, it has also vehemently condemned interference by the Eastern and Western superpowers and called for the elimination of the puppet Marxist government, the establishment of the sovereignty of the pure Islam of Muhammad (peace be upon him and his scion), and for Muslims to forge their own destiny in their Islamic homeland.

Everyone knows that the oppressed Muslim nation of Afghanistan has brought the greatest militarist power in the world to its knees, in its defense of Islam and its tenets, and has made the aggressors regret their aggression and usurpation not only in Afghanistan but in all parts of the world.

The maturity of the offspring of Islam in the trenches of their holy war in Afghanistan has crystallized with such brightness that arrogant powers and military advisers around the world are biting their fingers in astonishment. They are so dazzled that they have been forced to resort to political subterfuge using deceptive labels and to propagandistic blackmail and the usual diplomatic levers to compensate for their military defeats. They allege that a solution is possible in Afghanistan only through extensive discussions among all the parties concerned, but they tend to ignore the fact that a nation with such stolid combatant beliefs definitely has the required political acumen and maturity.

The convocation of the first large-scale congregation of Afghan Shiites is evidence of this Muslim combatant nation's political awareness and alertness of belief, which the consolidation of its multifaceted solidarity has shown world public opinion. With the blessings of such a sense of responsibility, the combatant leaders will soon achieve the long-awaited desire of the Muslim nation of Afghanistan in the not so distant future and will witness the raising of the flag of pure Islam of Muhammad (peace be upon him and his scion) on the peaks of the Pamir heights and the Hindukush mountains of Islamic Afghanistan, God willing.

Deputy Minister Interviewed on Foreign Trade

PM1403101690 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
18 Jan 90 p 18

[Interview with deputy commerce minister in charge of foreign trade, Firuz Dowlat-abadi; date and place not given]

[Text] [KEYHAN] Could you tell us what percentage of foreign trade is in the hands of the government and what percentage is in the hands of the private sector at the moment?

[Dowlat-abadi] During the past eight months, the government has had 39.5 percent, the private sector 37 percent, nationalized companies 16.5 percent, various centers six percent, cooperatives and other organizations one percent. It is necessary to say that this has been the trend also in the recent years.

[KEYHAN] Where is foreign trade in terms of the new Five-Year Plan? As a person responsible in this sector, what is your prediction for this country's foreign trade within the 5-year program?

[Dowlatabadi] I will give an answer to your question in two parts. First of all, I will describe the state of foreign trade, which is chaotic and has no central operation. It must be said that single command, in terms of foreign trade, has at the moment been destroyed. This is mostly because of the currency policies and distribution according to the budget. This allocation of hard currency has caused there to be a sum of currency for each organization, which means that an organization has to spend the currency. This type of foreign trade is not desirable to anyone because it does not work.

In our country, each organization is placed in charge of a task that is within its expertise. Other sideline tasks are done in coordination with other bodies. This is something that not everyone wants. This is also why foreign trade has been weakened for years. Control of foreign trade has therefore come out of the hands of the Ministry of Commerce—whether this is right or wrong. This is the current situation of foreign trade—a system that is not centralized, for which no one can make future plans.

This is not the case in the Five-Year Plan. This plan has put aside about \$100 billion in currency. From this sum some \$18.5 billion is provided from the sale of non-oil produce which accounts for 19 percent of the country's total exports. There is also in Footnote 29 of the Five-Year Plan some \$30 billion in currency which is not part of the general resources and spending of the Five-Year Plan. These are the "financing" and "buy-back" arrangements.

In view of the large sums of money involved, there must be a system of foreign trade which has to be properly organized. Of course we have some experience with foreign trade in the world which must also be taken into consideration. In today's world it is obvious to all that foreign trade and its growth are closely linked [as published]. In reality, foreign trade and economics are also linked. Even more important than that, everyone now believes that the real scene of economic struggle is in the field of foreign trade. This means that whoever in the world wins in terms of his foreign trade, in reality it will be him who will manage to present his country's economy to the world in a more powerful way. The more he increases his foreign trade, the more he will have an active economy.

Along the same lines, the society that can manage to spend little hard currency, again that society has managed to be successful in the arena of foreign trade.

Giving the above details shows that we want to move toward an organized foreign trade in the Five-Year Plan. If that does not happen and if foreign trade is not made more active, the Five-Year Plan will face serious problems.

The reason for this is because our country faces currency limitations within the five-year program and this limitation makes it harder to implement the plan. In order to solve the problem, the Islamic Republic of Iran needs an active foreign trade. That way, first of all, it will be able to make \$30 billion outside the table of usual resources and spending, it will also provide the \$18.5 billion from the export of non-oil produce. More important than all of this, it will promote the desirability for spending \$90 billion in hard currency.

Our foreign trade has to circle around these two figures. It must make the most of our hard currency and has to secure more sources of hard currency. For both these goals, there has to be a plan and a program in order to be able to solve the issues and problems.

This is what we have foreseen for foreign trade within the Five-Year Plan. We hope that foreign trade can once again be planned within the Ministry of Commerce so that this ministry can gain back some of its lost powers, so that other organizations obey one central command. If that happens, one can be very hopeful with regard to the success of the Five-Year Plan and its implementation.

Another important thing is that a unified command must in reality be considered as our trade policy. There must be one responsible body and that must be the Ministry of Commerce—just like foreign policy which is the sole responsibility of our Foreign Ministry. If that happens, one body will be responsible for all the weaknesses and all the strong points.

[KEYHAN] As the person responsible for foreign trade, how successful do you think the Ministry of Commerce programs will be for foreign trade, within the Five-Year Plan?

[Dowlatabadi] There are some who think the figures mentioned in the plan are too lofty and far-fetched. We believe that the government and the Majles have in reality shown their trust by passing the Five-Year Plan. Our foreign currency expenditures are predicted to be some \$20 billion which is what we had in the past years 1983 and 1982. We have no special problem in this regard. The sources that we have designated for bringing in hard currency are not unrealistic compared to other countries.

For example we have predicted that within five years we will have exports worth \$18.5 billion which is not too much for a five-year period. Turkey has had during the past five years \$60 billion worth of non-oil exports.

Our exports have been divided into two groups: One is our traditional local produce including minerals, rugs, pistachios, dried goods and fish products which will increase during the five-year period. The other is our exports relying on our foreign resources which in effect again use our local capabilities.

One has to mention at this time that at present our full industrial capacity has not been reached. We have to fill

this capacity because there is always demand for this. I must explain that our industries have always been aimed at the local market. This means that production has always been aimed at local consumption. This direction has to change. Our industry is one whose production standards are international. This is why we have to prepare the groundwork to export our industrial goods. We have to see how much our industries should produce, at what price, during what time? These are the elements that matter today in our industrial and trading circles. Without a doubt, keeping in mind the nation's capacity, it is not too far-fetched to think in terms of these goals.

There is only one condition and that is that there should be an all-out effort in this regard and that there should be constant control by the Ministry of Commerce which is the responsible body. In any case realizing the Five-Year Plan needs a national effort and we should not play with it. We should try, both in the executive organizations and outside these bodies, to make sure the goals of the plan are implemented in society.

[KEYHAN] Are there executive problems with regard to foreign trade within the Five-Year Plan? If there are, please give details.

[Dowlat-abadi] Organization is at the moment the biggest problem in foreign trade. In reality our foreign trade has no commander. After that, there is the system of distributing hard currency which does not really work and causes sluggishness in foreign trade. There must be something serious done about this. The responsibility for this issue should either go back to the Ministry of Commerce as before, or else its present committee formula should be made more logical.

The next issue is foreign trade policies. We have devised various policies to provide goods that our people need. For example it is worthy of note that this country needs about \$300 to \$400 million worth of PVC plastics which is imported. Instead of having a unified policy concerning this product, at the moment we have 1,000 orders to import this raw material which uses up a huge amount of manpower as well as money. We could do the same thing, with a centralized policy, with 20 orders.

The same thing applies to other goods and items which prevents work being done. These problems are the biggest ones facing foreign trade.

Another problem that we have is that we do not have a unified single method in dealing with a foreign trading partner. I must say that spending 100 billion pounds sterling in a correct and central way is a powerful leverage point in our political and economic negotiations with a foreign trading partner. Up until now this sum has been designated in a nonuniform manner.

For example, the Islamic Republic of Iran in the past 10 years has imported \$200 million in audio tapes for various uses and it still needs to import this material. If our trade policy had been a logical one with proper planning, it could have been possible to build a factory

inside the country that would make the audio tapes with about \$20 million. This means that hard currency has left the country without us benefitting from the technology, or being able to use it as an investment acceptable to the world.

[KEYHAN] Will past foreign trade policies continue in the Five-Year Plan?

[Dowlat-abadi] Of course not. If past methods worked, we would not have needed new planning. Another issue that in effect shows the weakness in our foreign trade is the fact that our political behavior did not complement our trading behavior. In developed countries these two are intertwined. In any case this is something that has been mentioned in the Five-Year Plan in a more realistic way.

It should be said that by "centralized" policies we do not mean government or private sector activities. It is possible for a society to have a central trade policy that is actually implemented by the private sector. It is possible to have a policy with regard to a single item, to have negotiations with several countries producing that item, to sign a contract and based on demand, to have one person or one organization go and finalize the deal to bring that item into the country.

This is where a centralized policy has been put into effect and the country has not been left short of that specific item. These are the problems that exist for foreign trade. We believe that these problems have to be overcome so that the Five-Year Plan can be realized.

[KEYHAN] In general, what are the goods that the government is importing now and what is the private sector importing?

[Dowlat-abadi] It is not possible to divide the goods into categories, to say the government is importing this and the private sector is importing that. At present the atmosphere is not limited for importing things. Those areas where the private sector does not enter into the scene, it is primarily because it is not profitable. For example the government imports wheat to the extent that it must, but since it is not profitable, the private sector does not show much willingness to import this. There are other such goods. The private sector acts in two ways which covers a wide area. At this time it is necessary to mention that 37 percent of our foreign trade is in the hands of the private sector, which is a high figure.

[KEYHAN] The recent currency facilities that the government places at the disposal of factories and workshops, to what extent has this benefited production?

[Dowlat-abadi] From the beginning of giving currency at preferred rates, 21 October 1989 until 28 December 1989, which is a two month period, some \$113 million was registered and ordered by owners of industry and traders. One must say that the process of producing goods, that depend on imports, is a long process and

from the time of registration until the time the item has been brought into the country, it takes on average some three months.

At present the raw materials for the factories which placed their orders at the beginning of the plan are just starting to arrive. So it is too early to see what effects these raw materials will have on production. But I must admit that the positive effects, especially with regard to the 131 items announced by the Ministry of Commerce, are quite obvious. On the other hand the people have been assured that the price of those items will come down because they are produced locally. I think that the effects of these raw materials on production will become better known in about two months' time. In the future the price of goods such as metals, cloth, paper, wood, food and so forth will come down even further.

[KEYHAN] It has now been several months since the government gave special currency rates to those who wanted currency. Could you please tell us what percentage of the country's industry have started their work based on the raw materials obtained from that hard currency?

[Dowlat-abadi] Industries have no problems with regard to currency at good rates. This means that owners of industries can bring their raw materials using 100 percent preferred currency rates. This \$113 million which has been registered is just the start and the situation in factories gets better every day. So one cannot say this figure of \$113 million is any sort of basis, to judge what percentage of our factories can start their work with this money.

[KEYHAN] With the removal of the fluctuations in the rate of currency by the Central Bank, to what extent did orders from industrialists and traders increase?

[Dowlat-abadi] Orders and registrations are on the increase by traders and industrialists. The stability that has been created in the system of currency will no doubt remove the insecurities of the industrialists and traders.

At present the cautious attitudes of the producers has dropped to the level of zero. It must be said that with the Central Bank policies, the production sector has nothing to worry about. The trading sector will also enter the market once the producers are active. The cautious methods they adopted at the beginning of the program will disappear. If God is willing, in the next six months things will begin to take on their real look.

[KEYHAN] Do you think there is a possibility that by the middle of 1369 [September 1990] the insecurities of industrialists and traders with regard to currency will disappear?

[Dowlat-abadi] Without a doubt that will be the case. There is no room for this worry any more. The respected president announced the government's policies with regard to investments and trade during the Friday prayers, so there cannot be a major problem in this

regard. If there is positive reaction from the mass media, the effects will become even more obvious.

[KEYHAN] Despite this is there a possibility that in the future in addition to the existing facilities, the government will give more concessions to industrialists and traders?

[Dowlat-abadi] The government's direction in giving concessions is clear to the public. There is a desire in the government to give more concessions. We are not here to prevent the private sector or production units from doing their work. The government's reaction toward the private sector has never been one of destruction. There was a time when the country was at war. During this time it was necessary to have control over the import and distribution of items. Now there is no war and it is natural that those problems do not exist. So it will not be that strict anymore. The government is taking clear steps and when the country's economy is in better shape, no doubt the government will improve conditions.

[KEYHAN] One of the problems that the people face now is the existence of a black market and the two sets of prices that exist. What has the Ministry of Commerce done to equalize the prices on the market?

[Dowlat-abadi] There have been several causes for this two-tier price system. The first reason is the varying price of the currency involved in the purchase of raw materials used in that product. In the past goods were imported with government, import or free currency rates. This had an effect on the pricing of the goods.

The Ministry of Commerce handed in a plan in this regard which was approved. Based on this plan, the raw materials for any item will be brought into the country using only one rate of currency. So this difference in pricing which was due to the currency rates will disappear.

The other issue is supply and demand. With the concessions that the government has made this will also be solved and as production goes up in the country, the difference in prices will also disappear. It has also been decided to provide more of the basic and rationed goods. This means that the people's needs will be placed at their disposal in a more pleasant way in the framework of the Five-Year Plan. This in itself will remove the pressures of the various prices. When the rates of currency are made uniform the basis of the price will also be coordinated. One can be hopeful that the problems will be solved one after the other.

[KEYHAN] Are you saying that for example the car factories can have [words illegible] competitive production?

[Dowlat-abadi] These types of factories will only get competitive currency rates from now on. This means there will no longer be government currency rates for the manufacture of cars. This also means that the difference in price in this item will disappear.

[KEYHAN] It has been a while since the last time there was mention of nationalizing foreign trade. At what stage is this project?

[Dowlat-abadi] The basis of nationalizing foreign trade and the decision on this issue is the responsibility of the Majles. But one thing I can say is that the issue of nationalizing or not nationalizing foreign trade is neither positive or negative in terms of the economy. This will only matter when we want to use our foreign trade in the best possible way in order to meet our economic goals and consumer trends. This is not necessarily achieved by nationalizing foreign trade. It is even possible that these goals may be achieved by running the system in the most private way.

We are not talking about the shape of the work. I think during the past 10 years, the country did not reach a general understanding with regard to foreign trade. This is why there was no general trend to improve currency rates, to use this is a positive way in political issues or in connection with consumer trends. If that had been done both the government and the private sectors would have been able to be active.

So whether or not we nationalize foreign trade 100 percent has never had a majority consensus. It must be said that during the hardest conditions, the share of the private sector was quite considerable and this was because of the scattered nature of many goods. So the main objective is to give direction to the currency in various sectors and correct the trend in imports which can all be done by implementing correct regulations. By undertaking logical policies in the public sector, we can move toward the real needs, as recognized by the government. We have no major problems in this regard.

[KEYHAN] What sorts of measures are the government and the Ministry of Commerce taking to make life easier for the people in the coming new year?

[Dowlat-abadi] Essential items will definitely have a better situation in the future. The remarks made by Hojjat ol-Islam Hashemi Rafsanjani during this week's Friday prayers indicate this. The government and the Ministry of Commerce have put all their effort into making sure that the people are more comfortable.

The government of the Islamic Republic has some programs, which will be announced when finished. I think the government wants to stay away from making slogans, to announce something only when it is accomplished which without a doubt will have more positive results in society.

Nepal

Over 400 Doctors Strike for Staff's Release

BK2803123490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1222 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Kathmandu, March 28 (AFP)—More than 400 doctors struck Wednesday [28 March] for the first time

in the 30-year history of Nepal's partyless political system to demand the release of medical staff and students, a Nepal Medical Association (NMA) spokesman said.

In separate incidents, police fired tear gas to break up a rally by secondary-school students when they attempted to burn an effigy representing the country's Panchayat, or parliament, near the capital's outskirts.

At Tribhuvan University's multi-purpose college at Palpa, 240 kilometers (150 miles) west of Kathmandu, more than 1,500 students who had been demonstrating since Monday encircled the campus office to demand the release of 24 students arrested for supporting the movement for a return to the multiparty political system, sources said.

The striking doctors included those working in hospitals, clinics and nursing homes, both government and private, in Kathmandu Valley.

They were demanding the release of 18 people, including the president of a human rights organization, who were arrested March 20 at a Tribhuvan University auditorium.

But the strike, intended to be day-long, was called off after two hours at the request of Dr. Sachey Kumar Pahadi, the NMA's president, who announced that four of the detained—Dr. Mathura Prasad Shrestha, president of the Forum for Human Rights Protection, Nurse Meena Paudyal and two paramedics—had been released Tuesday night "and the remaining 14 would be released shortly."

Dr. Pahadi warned that the doctors would hold a nationwide strike Sunday if the remaining detainees, all medical students, were not released by Thursday.

Striking doctors termed the strike a success, as Dr. M.P. Shrestha, who is also a professor at Tribhuvan Teaching Hospital, was freed and the government had planned to try him under the State Offence Act.

The NMA spokesman said the government of Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha had released Dr. M.P. Shrestha, "in an apparent bid to stop the strike."

Doctors and paramedics joined the strike at Lalitpur, Bhaktapur and Kathmandu, and at private clinics and nursing homes elsewhere, NMA sources said. Only the emergency wards at the public and private run hospitals were opened, and doctors were seen standing quietly in front of the hospitals.

At the Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital, wall posters said "stop killing, police repression and state terror," "our fight is for the protection of human rights," and "release all detainees, including doctors."

Hundreds of students at Vanasthali Vidhyalaya, a secondary school, and at Vanasthali Institute of Science on the outskirts of Kathmandu township clashed with riot

police who trying to stop the students from burning an effigy of Nepal's parliament.

The students said that demonstrators panicked when police encircled them and began throwing stones and chanting slogans. Police fired several rounds of tear gas to disperse the students. There were no arrests, a student leader said.

Foreign, Justice Ministers Said To Have Resigned

BK2803132590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1311 GMT
28 Mar 90

[Text] Kathmandu, March 28 (AFP)—Nepal's foreign minister and justice minister were believed Wednesday [28 March] to have submitted their resignations at a moment when Nepal's Government is faced with grave political unrest.

Nepal's Foreign Minister Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya was said to have submitted his resignation to protest the government's handling of a widespread movement for a return to a multi-party political system.

The minister for law and justice, Badri Prashad Mandal, was also believed to have submitted his resignation, observers said. He was elected from the Sunsari District, 290 kilometres (170 miles) southeast of Kathmandu.

Mr. Upadhyaya told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE early Wednesday that "I have not yet resigned, but it is possible." He did not elaborate.

Official confirmation was expected late Wednesday or early Thursday.

But a senior source close to Mr. Upadhyaya said he had submitted his resignation to the king over the wrong handling of the unrest by Prime Minister Man Mohan Singh Shrestha.

Other sources close to Mr. Upadhyaya confirmed that he had already resigned and was waiting for King Birendra's acceptance.

Mr. Upadhyaya's resignation would come at a moment when the government faces a grave political situation caused by an ongoing series of demonstrations calling for an end to Nepal's ban on political parties and a return to a multi-party democracy.

Analysts said that if Mr. Upadhyaya's resignation occurs, it would seriously affect the Shrestha government and could lead to the resignation of several other ministers who were not on good terms with Mr. Shrestha.

At least 12 people have died in police firings and thousands have been arrested since February 18, when Nepal's banned parties and other pro-democracy groups kicked off the campaign.

Student Killed, Several Hurt in Political Clash

BK2803145090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1418 GMT
28 Mar 90

[Text] Kathmandu, March 28 (AFP)—A student has been stabbed to death and several injured during a clash between rival political groups at a Tribhuvan University campus, student sources said here Wednesday [28 March].

The brawl occurred late Tuesday between students urging a return to multiparty politics and a group of youths popularly known as "Mandales," who are trained in martial arts and support Nepal's current partyless parliamentary system.

Ram Thapa, a law student, was killed and several students were injured in the factional fighting at the Mechi multiple-campus, 390 kilometres (243 miles) southeast of Kathmandu, student sources said.

Officials confirmed only Mr. Ram Thapa's death and the wounding of five or six students, but a banned-party source said that some 100 students were injured by the Mandales and by police baton charges.

The source said hundreds of students had gathered Tuesday at the campus to stage an anti-Panchayat (parliament) demonstration, and to demand an end to political suppression, arrests and the killing of people in police firings.

Several plainclothes police, accompanied by Mandales, arrived and began beating the pro-democracy demonstrators, the source said.

Two young Mandales trained in martial arts, identified as Ganga Neupane and Mani Lama, allegedly attacked the unarmed students with a dagger and sharp knife, and were themselves badly beaten, the source said.

But the source said they were rescued by the riot police, who took them for treatment while leaving Mr. Ram Thapa and the other injured students.

At least 15 students were arrested, while the two attackers were allegedly taken away to an unknown place for their protection, the sources added.

Meanwhile, students at the Amrit Science Campus and the Shanti Bidhya Griha, secondary girls' school, held a protest Wednesday strongly denouncing the attack at the Mechi campus.

Students of the Padma Kanya Girls' College burned an effigy symbolizing the parliament and shouted anti-Panchayat slogans, witnesses said. They also called for a campus meeting Friday to demand the restoration of human rights and to protest the scarcity and high cost of consumer goods, a spokesman for the Nepal Students' Union (NSU) said.

The NSU has called a strike in all educational institutions in Kathmandu and the satellite cities of Lalitpur

and Bhaktapur on Sunday to protest the killing at Mechi, which it said was carried out by hired hooligans.

The group also demanded the release of all the political prisoners, including senior leaders of the banned Nepal Congress such as President Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, General Secretary Girija Prasad Koirala and Ganesh Man Singh.

Several Hundred Students Demonstrate in Kathmandu

BK2703111790 Hong Kong AFP in English 1054 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Kathmandu, March 27 (AFP)—Several hundred students Tuesday [27 March] demonstrated on a major Kathmandu thoroughfare to call for a multi-party system, witnesses said.

The students, from four campuses of the Tribhuvan University network, obstructed traffic for more than an hour as riot police watched without intervening, the witnesses said.

Another group of about 500 students from a science college and a secondary school held a separate demonstration in which they carried black flags, the symbol of Nepal's democracy movement.

Three of these demonstrators were arrested, according to a spokesman of the Nepal Students' Union, which advocates democracy in Nepal, whose panchayat or local council system has been in place for 30 years.

Reports reaching here Tuesday said that several campuses in Chitwan, 90 kilometres south of here, observed a strike Tuesday.

At a public meeting, the strikers demanded the release of students, professors and others detained in connection with the ongoing political movement.

GDR Closes Embassy for 'Austerity Reasons'

BK2903064890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0634 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Kathmandu, March 29 (AFP)—East Germany's embassy in Nepal is being closed for austerity reasons and Ambassador Lothar Strauss is leaving Kathmandu Monday [2 April], an embassy source said Thursday.

The source said East Germany's embassy in New Delhi will in future be responsible for Nepal.

The Kathmandu mission is the 20th East German embassy to be closed for economic reasons, the source added.

At an official dinner Wednesday Mr. Strauss and Nepalese Foreign Minister Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya both said the closure of the embassy would not affect the good relations between the two countries.

Pakistan

Minister: Bhutto Does Not Need Confidence Vote

BK2803154390 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Except] The Senate was told today that Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto enjoys the confidence of the majority of the National Assembly and does not require a new vote after 20 March. This was stated by Interior Minister Aitzaz Ahsan while speaking on identical privilege motions moved by Akhundzada Bahrawar Sayeed and Professor Khurshid Ahmad. Mr. Ahsan said 20 March has no significance as far as the prime minister is concerned. What occurred on 20 March was that the procedure for electing the prime minister was changed and the president no longer has the power to nominate the prime minister. The interior minister said if anyone has a doubt regarding the constitutional provision, he is free to approach superior courts. [passage omitted]

Opposition Warns Government on Kashmir Issue

BK2403052490 London BBC World Service in English 0215 GMT 24 Mar 90

[From "Newsreel" program]

[Text] Opposition leaders in Pakistan have warned the government not to attempt to hold talks with India on the situation in Indian Kashmir. They have also called on the government to take more action in support of the Kashmiris there who are seeking independence. This report from Lyce Doucet in Lahore.

[Begin Lyce Doucet recording] Kashmir and thus India figured in most speeches marking the 50 years since the Pakistan resolution, the declaration which led Pakistan to separate from India in 1947 to form a state for Muslims. The president, Ghulam Ishaq Khan, said India should learn a lesson from history. Freedom struggles once started could not be crushed by force, he said. The prime minister, Ms. Bhutto also stressed Pakistan's commitment to the Kashmiris right of self-determination in her televised address.

But in Lahore, the capital of Pakistan's largest province, leaders of the Muslim League party and some of their allies maintained the government wasn't doing enough. A resolution passed at a huge rally said Pakistanis wouldn't tolerate attempts to embark on what they described as (factious) direct negotiations with India, which now controls two-thirds of Kashmir, an apparent illusion to recent statements by Ms. Bhutto that Pakistan was ready to talk to India. However, India rejected this course, describing Kashmir as an internal matter. Ms. Bhutto's government has so far been able to achieve a wave of political consensus on both Kashmir and Afghanistan, which has recently boosted her political standing. [end recording]

'Positive' U.S. Stand on Kashmir Welcomed*BK2703141290 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu
9 Mar 90 p 9*

[Editorial: "Kashmir—Positive U.S. Attitude"]

[Text] The U.S. under secretary of state has told the House subcommittee that "Jammu and Kashmir is a disputed territory and that India and Pakistan should resolve the issue through negotiations." The U.S. Government's declaration that Jammu and Kashmir is a disputed territory belies the Indian Government's claims that Kashmir is an integral part of India and that no country has any right to interfere in its internal affairs. The United States has now rejected India's stand, as the U.S. under secretary of state has announced that Pakistan has had no hand in recent developments in Kashmir and that the Kashmiri people are themselves demonstrating to achieve their rights. The United States had earlier warned India and asked it to prevent its forces from shooting unarmed and peaceful Kashmiri demonstrators. These declarations indicate that the United States still respects and upholds justice and is not ready to close its eyes and endorse India's tyranny and oppression.

Although the United States has been leaning toward India and has supported India, and not Pakistan, in time of need despite agreements with Islamabad, the U.S. stand on the Kashmir issue should be welcomed and appreciated because Washington has ultimately adopted a positive attitude and decided not to support India blindly as it did during the wars of 1965 and 1971. On the nuclear issue as well, the United States has been influenced by Indian propaganda. It is only on the Afghanistan question that the United States has supported Pakistan openly, but that too is to serve its own interests; otherwise, the United States has always gone back on its commitments to Pakistan and has not been able to prove itself a reliable friend and ally of the Pakistani people.

Nonetheless, the United States has been maintaining a positive attitude on recent developments in Kashmir and if India can read the signals, it should now stop its repressive policy in Kashmir because the world is not ready to accept jungle law in this last decade of the 20th century. The United States should increase its pressure on India to force it to solve the Kashmir problem not under the Simla Agreement, but through a plebiscite in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions. The U.S. Government has presently emphasized the need for the settlement of the Kashmir issue through bilateral negotiations in the spirit of the Simla Agreement, but it should be made clear to Washington that the Kashmir problem can be resolved only according to the wishes of the third and real force—the Kashmiri people themselves—as provided in the relevant UN resolutions.

Since the United States considers itself a champion of human rights, it should also pay attention to the miserable conditions of the Kashmiri people who have been

facing Indian oppression and tyranny for the past 40 years. The Indian forces have kept them subjugated with the force of cannons, machine guns, and tanks, but now the Kashmiri Muslims have lost their patience and are offering sacrifices to free themselves from Indian claws.

The Western mass media have also acknowledged that current developments in Kashmir are reminiscent of the latest changes in Eastern Europe. The U.S. assistant secretary of state has also given a similar assessment, saying there is no sign of any weakening of the movement of the Kashmiri people.

Against this backdrop, India should think that when a colonial superpower like the Soviet Union could not succeed in maintaining its domination over Eastern Europe, how long can it keep the Kashmiri Muslims under its yoke by the use of force? Now it has become imperative for the United States, the free world, and the Muslim world to uphold justice, truth and realism and help the Kashmiri people achieve their right of freedom from Indian claws in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions.

Palestinian Envoy Voices Support for Kashmir*BK2803153790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 28 Mar 90*

[Text] The Palestinian ambassador, Mr. (Ahmad 'Abd al-Razak), has said that the state of Palestine favors a peaceful solution to the Kashmir problem based on UN resolutions and the Simla Agreement. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad today, he said that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat has never described Kashmir as part of India. He said Indian television had attributed a statement to Mr. 'Arafat which he never said, and because of this false report a misunderstanding was created in Pakistan over Palestine's stand on Kashmir. He added that Palestinians are deeply concerned and grieved over events in occupied-Kashmir.

Spokesman Denies Tanay Interrogated by ISI*BK2903105690 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES
in English 29 Mar 90 p 1*

[Text] Rawalpindi—A spokesman of the Ministry of Defence has contradicted a news item appearing in a section of Press that former Defence Minister of Afghan regime General Shahanawaz Tanay is being interrogated in Pakistan by Inter Services Intelligence (ISI).

The spokesman said the report was totally baseless and had nothing to do with the facts.

Bhutto Reiterates 'Full Support' for Nuclear Power*BK2903154790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 29 Mar 90*

[Text] The prime minister has underscored the need for continued research in the field of nuclear energy and has called upon the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission

[PAEC] to redouble its efforts to implement its nuclear power programs. She was addressing the annual PAEC meeting in Islamabad today. The prime minister, who presided over the meeting, gave assurances that the government will continue to give its full support to implementation of the peaceful nuclear program. She commended the work of PAEC scientists and engineers who are operating the Karachi Nuclear Power Plant with indigenously developed nuclear fuel.

The meeting reviewed last year's performance and expressed satisfaction and happiness with the successes achieved in connection with the establishment of nuclear power plants under recent agreements with China and France. The prime minister emphasized that the successes have been achieved without compromising Pakistan's nuclear energy policy.

Minister Reports \$28 Million in Arms Sales

*BK2703050490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 26 Mar 90*

[Excerpts] The National Assembly was informed this evening that the government has either spent or still have

to spend a total of more than 1.3 billion rupees on various developmental projects under the People's Program planned for the last one year. [passage omitted]

The federal minister of state for defense, Colonel (ret.) Ghulam Sarwar Cheema, told the House that Pakistan has supplied arms and ammunition worth more than \$28 million to 23 countries between 1 December 1988 and 1 December 1989. The House will now meet on Wednesday [28 March] morning.

Police Seize 80 kg of Heroin in Sukkur 28 Mar

*BK2903100290 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
29 Mar 90 p 8*

[Text] Sukkur, March 28: Eighty kg heroin was seized by Pakistan Narcotics Control Board [PNCB] police near here Wednesday [28 March].

The truck driver Zahoor Ahmed of Sargodha was arrested on his way to Karachi carrying heroin in truck No. MR/2132. This was disclosed by Agha Sikandar Ali Khan Pathan, Regional Director PNCB Sind at a Press conference here at PNCB office Sukkur.